

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 251

31 December 1986

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES**

Gerasimov on Returnees, Fishing Accords	CC 1
Arbatov Interviewed by Indian Journalist [Madras THE HINDU 28 Nov]	CC 2
Kashlev Issues Statement on Security, Disarmament	CC 6

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Zholkver Hits Reagan's New Year's Address	A 1
Bovin Views Reagan's Last Two Years of 'Reign'	A 1
SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Profiles CIA Director Casey [17 Dec]	A 2
Commentary Derides U.S.-Honduran 'Operations' [Ivanov]	A 5

CHINA

PRC Reports on Shanghai Demonstrations Reviewed [PRAVDA 27 Dec]	B 1
PRC Research Ship Arrives in Antarctica [PRAVDA 30 Dec]	B 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

PRAVDA Runs Election Greetings to DPRK Leaders	C 1
President Kim Il-song [31 Dec]	C 1
Premier Yi Kun-mo [31 Dec]	C 1
Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam [31 Dec]	C 1

SOUTH ASIA

DRA's Najib Comments on Sociopolitical Situation [Gorokhov, Okulov in PRAVDA 30 Dec]	D 1
DRA Domestic, Foreign Policies Reviewed [Okulov in PRAVDA 28 Dec]	D 3
Kabul-Hayraton Highway, Tunnel Work Completed	D 4

WESTERN EUROPE

Gorbachev Receives Italian CP Official Occhetto	G 1
Meets With Ligachev, Dobrynin	G 1

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Increasingly 'Sinister' U.S.-Israeli Links Hit [Glukhov in PRAVDA 30 Dec]	H 1
--	-----

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Supreme Soviet Delegation Departs for Mali 5 Dec J 1
[IZVESTIYA 6 Dec]
Visit Summed Up [IZVESTIYA 17 Dec] J 1

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Costa Rica Refuses To Return 'War Criminal' K 1
PRAVDA Reports on Melnikov Delegation Cuba Visit K 1
[21 Dec]
Konchits Delegation Returns From Cuban Visit K 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Dec]
Cuban Forces Political Delegation Arrives 14 Dec K 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Dec]
Visit Reported, Ends K 2
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Dec]
Moscow Marks Cuban Revolution Anniversary 30 Dec K 2
[Havana]
Leadership Congratulates Castro on Reelection K 3
[PRAVDA 30 Dec]
PRAVDA Cites Castro on Cuba's Socialist Struggle K 3
[23 Dec]
PRAVDA Cites Castro Speech on Development Problems K 4
[28 Dec]
Raul Castro Writes on Cuban Military Jubilee K 5
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Dec]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Culture Official Attends Artists Union Plenum R 1
[PRAVDA 25 Dec]
Officials Attend Supreme Soviet Commission Session R 1
[IZVESTIYA 20 Dec]
Demichev Awards Honors to Academicians, Artists R 1
Sector Trade Union Congresses Held [TRUD 21 Dec] R 2
AUCCTU Plenum Elects New Officials 29 December R 2
Trade Workers Union Elects New Chairman [TRUD 25 Dec] R 3
Aliyev, Others Sign Theater Director's Obituary R 3
[PRAVDA 29 Dec]
New Head of Cinematography Committee Appointed R 4
Yeltsin Meets With Party School Officials R 4
[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 13 Dec]
Moscow Gorispolkom Discusses Speculation R 5
[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 17 Dec]
Shortcomings in Petroleum Refining Noted R 5
[RADYANSKA UKRAINA 19 Dec]
Shcherbitskiy Meets Rural Party Officials R 6
[PRAVDA UKRAINY 20 Dec]
Shcherbitskiy Addresses Party, Economic Aktiv R 8
Further on Perm Obkom Discussion of Shortcomings R 8
[Ryabov in PRAVDA 29 Dec]
PRAVDA Stresses Need for 'Fresh Forces' in Party [25 Dec] R 12

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

State Quality Inspectorates To Start 1 Jan	S 1
Bad Weather Hampers Operation of Railroads	S 1
[Tikhomirov]	
Moscow TV Comments on Winter, Rail Traffic Jams	S 3
[Beketov]	
PRAVDA Views Power Industry's 1986 Performance	S 4
[Pavlov, 22 Dec]	

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Kazakhstan Workers Fulfill Sales Pledges	T 1
Session of VASKHNIL Siberian Department Held	T 1

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Razumovskiy Addresses New Veterans Organization	V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Dec]	
Military Leaders Sign Retired Admiral's Obituary	V 6
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Dec]	
Eastern District Komsomol Meets	V 6
[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Dec]	

GERASIMOV ON RETURNEES, FISHING ACCORDS

LD302328 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Excerpts] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists has been held at the press center of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The briefing was conducted by Gennadiy Gerasimov, the man in charge of the Information Department of the ministry.

The outgoing year has shown, said Gennadiy Gerasimov, that new frontiers could have been reached given good will in controlling nuclear weapons and bringing about disarmament. The USSR for its part has displayed a will of this kind. It proposed a program to get rid of the nuclear and all other weapons of mass annihilation by the end of this century, and at the Reykjavik summit it produced a package of wide-ranging proposals. This year the Soviet Union has kept extending its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions. Regrettably the United States and its allies have continued to build up arms. Nonetheless we express hope, said Gennadiy Gerasimov, that next year Western nations will take concrete steps to promote peace and security.

Asked to comment on the return home of a large group of former Soviet citizens after getting disappointed with the American way of life, Gennadiy Gerasimov pointed out that the Soviet Union would continue to favor requests from those who would like to return home. He said that there were more than 1,000 applications of this kind only at the consular department of the Soviet Embassy in the United States. Many other applications of this kind have reached Soviet embassies in other nations. All are being examined. The former Soviet citizens returning home, Gennadiy Gerasimov noted, definitely create certain problems. They must be given jobs, housing and ensured other social allowances to which all Soviet citizens are entitled under the constitution. All these problems will be dealt with by local authorities. [passage omitted]

The Australian and New Zealand press has mounted an unfriendly campaign over the fishing agreement the Soviet Union signed with Vanuatu, said Gennadiy Gerasimov at the briefing. The Soviet Union has been accused of infiltrating this region and destabilizing small insular states. Accusations of this kind, Gennadiy Gerasimov pointed out, are absolutely groundless. The Soviet Union has always tried to maintain good relations with all nations in the Asian-Pacific region. We appreciate developing contacts with the sovereign countries in the South Pacific and consider them natural and mutually beneficial.

Gennadiy Gerasimov also condemned the anti-Soviet hysteria raised by the Western press over a Soviet-Argentine fishing agreement. He pointed out the agreement pertained exclusively to bilateral relations and did not infringe upon the interests of third countries, nor did it hinder a settlement of the Argentine-British dispute. What's more, the Soviet-Argentine fishing agreement is an example of peaceful and constructive international cooperation. Gerasimov concluded by saying this contributed concretely to the formation of a zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic.

ARBATOV INTERVIEWED BY INDIAN JOURNALIST

BK211455 Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Nov 86 p 8

[First of two-part interview with Georgiy Arbatov of USSR Academy of Sciences who visited India as part of a panel of experts in various fields to assist the Soviet delegation in its parleys with Indian counterparts, by special correspondent Manoj Joshi in New Delhi -- date not given]

[Text] Q: What is your assessment of the most recent developments in our region, specifically the decision by the U.S. to supply Pakistan with the AWACS, the Pakistan bomb, the confirmation of U.S.-Pakistan security links in the form of ground facilities for American surveillance and communications?

A: I am not a specialist in the region. I study the U.S. really. What I think in a more philosophical way is that the U.S. had an unusual and unique time after World War II when they had a monopoly of nuclear weapons and when their major competitors, Japan and Europe, were in a bad way, and the USSR was in ruins with 20 million deaths, etc. Somehow it brought back the eternal dream of the manifest destiny of the U.S. Then the situation started to change, we made up the gap in nuclear weapons. During the Cuban missile crisis we had 300 warheads and they had about 5,000 and despite that they could not dream of starting a nuclear war. Also we made considerable economic progress in the 1950s and 1960s and so did their allies in Western Europe.

At around this time, there was also a great crisis of old empires and the Americans hoped that because of their strength they could replace them. They were for the 'open door' and you are for this when you are stronger: But then it turned out that many of the ex-colonial countries were not so timid and they wanted to build their future themselves with their own mistakes. They are today nobody's countries, they are their own masters and they have become mature as well. Then the whole U.S. policy ran into difficulties. Maybe with or without the Vietnam war which was like a catalyst. This brought about a new understanding where the U.S. remained a great power but was cut to proper size by history and by events. This was very difficult, very painful for many Americans to understand. This process of adjustment was very painful for the U.S. which had lived with a feeling of complete security between two oceans with militarily weak rivals and friendly neighbours. And suddenly the Americans woke up to find that they were as vulnerable as we have been in our history and in the economic field too they understood that they were no longer the leaders. The U.S. would have remained a great country but a country without imperial dreams, with an understanding of what it could do and what it couldn't. But it was very difficult for many to come to grips with this and there were dormant feelings in many Americans of their exceptionalism and manifest destiny. I think Reagan brought this to the surface. And this is what brought him to the surface as well. It is like the counter-reformation, it is an attempt to play back history...and so we have lived for the last six years with a group of people wanting to replay history, to bring back military superiority, and to bring back the role of military policeman of the world. Hegel has said history repeats itself once as a tragedy and another time as a farce. The comedy in Iran recently points to this and near Iran is Pakistan.

Q: Do you see the developments as indicative of the cooperation of Pakistan into the world-wide U.S. security system with this AWACS etc.?

A: It (the AWACS) can look here and there. I think there is a lot of technological-militaristic romanticism. They think this can change the facts of life but it hardly will. The Americans tried to do it with Iran but what happened? I'm not sure what they are doing for Pakistan makes it more stable. [paragraph continues]

It actually destabilises the region. Of course it may be part of a grand design to weaken India just as they tried to do it to us by the arms race and the Strategic Defense Initiative. Giving more and more sophisticated arms to Pakistan may also destabilise India which was never a country that they trusted. But I don't want to go into this because I don't want to sound as though I am sowing seeds of more distrust between India and the U.S. than already exists. That is not our policy....

I would say that most Americans would abhor Pakistan becoming a nuclear power. They are afraid. Their leadership, begging your pardon, is tremendously illiterate. Even in the sense of strategy it doesn't understand the viper's nest it is creating there.

Q: In this context will the USSR reconsider its decision to withdraw from Afghanistan in a unilateral fashion?

A: We don't say we will do so unilaterally. We came in at the invitation of the Government of Afghanistan and we shall withdraw our troops but not simply without any conditions but as part of a settlement which will include some conditions: stopping interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs which comes mainly from Pakistan and is funded by the U.S. I think that the Pakistanis have already started to understand, that it has become dangerous for them as well. It destabilises their Government with all the tribal feuds that you see.

Q: The U.S. has been insisting that the regional issues and human rights should form part of the overall arms control package. Why hasn't the USSR insisted that the winding down of American involvement in Afghanistan or the winding down of the Rapid Deployment Force be included in such discussions?

A: We maintain that this is part of an American game. It should have been understood. Here we were in the midst of important negotiations, a treaty to save the very concept of arms control, the ratification of SALT II, to prevent the breakout from all constraints and there was, according to us, a mutual understanding that this had to be settled. The U.S. Government, not because it wanted to stop the arms race, but because it felt pressure since 1982, agreed to negotiations which ran into a stalemate. These negotiations we understood were the number one problem to be discussed. Then they played the usual trick of substituting the real agenda by something artificial by saying that just as important as the main thing were some regional problems and human rights issues and they tried to create an impression that we were against the discussion of such problems. We said we are not against them but on American terms because when they speak about regional problems they mean breaking the neck of Nicaragua, or how to create a deeper impasse in Afghanistan or support Savimbi (the UNITA leader) in Angola. They did not think of South Africa or a political solution in Afghanistan or the West Asia where the most dangerous situation exists or the Iran-Iraq war. No, they helped Iran as we see. Then you cannot discuss everything in 1-1/2 days, you have many difficult problems and obstacles to overcome and then they say that in order to solve this problem we have to solve 10 additional problems. We said we're ready to discuss but let's not shy away from this main problem of survival of the human race.

Q: Will you comment on the recent U.S. attempts to build bridges with the Khomeyni Government in Iran?

A: This episode is one in a succession of lies brought forward in the past few months, the disinformation campaign against Libya, then this guy was caught (Hasenfus, the American who was shot down in Nicaragua while dropping supplies to the Contras), then their behaviour after Reykjavik, how they lied. We don't have one version of Reykjavik but 10 official versions of their salesmanship. [paragraph continues]

The American people and the world must think about what kind of people we have to deal with, what policy we have to deal with and what these people are prepared to do. They are prepared to intervene in a war which is considered senseless, tremendously dangerous from the point of view of its consequences, which has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. But these were not American lives so they don't bother about it. And here they did not even adhere to their own constitutional rules. It is like a farce really, these false documents, lies, disguises etc.

Q: Why has this war persisted?

A: It is often forgotten as to how the war started. It is the duty of everyone to do something. I can see the difficulties now. It has a legacy of emotion, bitterness. It is everyone's duty not to encourage it. I'm sorry the U.S. hasn't followed this golden rule. The late Olaf Palme tried and he told me several times about the problems...but he didn't succeed.

Q: What's the USSR's role in all this?

A: We are against the war of course, wholeheartedly, and we tried to use the modest influence we have with both parties to find a way for a political settlement and this is not only our wish but our interest just as it would be of any decent nation in the region and around the world. If this war lasts longer it will not only result in more bloodshed and suffering but could spill over.

Q: There is a lot of talk of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's Asia-Pacific initiative. If I recollect, the ideas proposed at Vladivostok were put in general terms rather than in any specific manner. How do you envision it? Like the Helsinki accord?

A: I can speak on broad terms as to what can resemble Europe and what cannot... We had a situation in Europe where there were an unprecedented number of weapons and some of the biggest armies in peacetime were lined up against each other. This was obviously dangerous. Also we had in Europe, an unprecedented infrastructure of bilateral and multilateral negotiations and relations as well as agreements. Both the sides created a precarious balance. In Asia-Pacific we have much more recently entered a stage of a threatening militarisation. You have the American fleet, sea-based cruise missiles in particular and we have our own response to this. You have other hotbeds of the arms race and tension. West Asia, the Gulf, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Korea, are all flashpoints.

So our thinking was that this is not normal, this can develop into a very dangerous situation. We must at least initiate moves to discuss security in this region as no one else has taken the initiative. Most of the countries in this area are not actually involved in the process of discussing arms control, disarmament, security issues. So we brought forward in Vladivostok this idea but not as an idea to create a mirror image of what has happened in Europe. By the way in Europe the idea came forward in 1965 and the treaty was signed in 1975, so it took quite some time but we brought it forward as an idea because we understand that there are many more conflicts here. Europe is more or less stable. Though you have revanchist forces in Germany and some other countries the Governments at least don't claim territories of other countries.

Here it is different. Everything is in flux, a very volatile situation prevails. We understand that it is much more difficult, there are many more countries, bigger regions, different systems etc. You need many more participants to start the process.

There are many people in the Soviet Union who believe that India can start the process and carry the torch so as to say and generate new ideas, but the decision is India's. We of course will discuss this with many countries and have already held consultations with Japan, People's Republic of China, etc. To once again state the issue, we don't want to impose on Asian nations some grand design of ours. We aren't so naive! No one can claim that we have any blueprint for so complex an arrangement that any Asia-Pacific security arrangement may involve. But we do think that we can't sit and watch the danger arising.

Q: The USSR has taken several steps to improve relations with the People's Republic of China. The U.S. has of course good relations with the PRC for some time now. Recently they have concluded an agreement for the transfer of some military technology and American ships called on Qingdao after Weinberger's (the U.S. Defence Secretary) visit. How do you envisage the situation developing?

A: You are again asking me of a country that I don't know much about. It takes a lifetime to understand a country as big as China, though I was there a year ago and I am very much interested as anyone. My feeling is that people who now play a role in Chinese policy understand that their country has a lot of things to do, a lot of problems to overcome, and I think and indeed I hope that they have made a list of their priorities. The highest on this list will be internal development, making up the gap between their under-development and the developed countries. They have not done badly in the past few years and I think they understand the need for a good international environment. I think in this sense they have a feeling that they understand that their relations with the USSR are of crucial importance, much greater than some military technology they import from the U.S. and I understand also that China has very complicated relations with its southern neighbours -- with Vietnam or India. But if my reading is correct about their understanding of their priorities then these problems can be solved especially in a broader context of Asian-Pacific security.

Q: There are some fears expressed in this country that since Indo-Soviet ties grew at the time of the Sino-Soviet rift, your rapprochement will result in some distancing of the USSR from India. However, the coincidence of the growth of Indo-USSR ties in the 1950s and the '60s with the Sino-Soviet rift is there.

A: We are against balance of power type of politics. We think it doesn't work these days. I have to answer this question very often in relation to Western Europe: Our policy doesn't aim to tear away Western Europe from the U.S. We are realists and we know that they have tremendous mutual interests, as well as a deep economic, political and cultural relationship. We want to build a good relationship with Western Europe, also with the U.S. and with China or anyone but not at the cost of our relationship with India which can play I think a very great role in the future, even greater than now. I think in general it (balance of power) doesn't work. It does so only in the minds of some arm-chair statesman like Kissinger.

The world is so interdependent now and so small that there is no place for balance of power games. I would be dismissive of this kind of logic. Our relations with India are very high in our priority not because we have bad relations with China.

The coincidence you spoke of, quite honestly, arose from the fact that we clearly misunderstood the nature of India's freedom struggle. We were in general very naive about what was happening in former colonies. Revolutionaries tend sometimes to be naive. So we thought that if it wasn't something like our own revolution it was not the real thing. [paragraph continues]

There was this misunderstanding but we came very early in the mid-fifties to the conclusion that our understanding was not correct and this changed our relations with India, not the fact that our relations with China were deteriorating. And now with Gorbachev we have reached a new stage in our understanding of the developing world. And this will be more pronounced now. It is not by chance or accident that Rajiv Gandhi was the first foreign statesman to be received by Gorbachev and I think that his state visit, aside from those to socialist countries, to India speaks about the importance of Indo-USSR relations.

We have tried to bring our political and military relations in line with this understanding of the world. It was not by chance that at the 27th Party Congress a new concept of security was brought forward; that security was not limited to the disarmament field; though this is very important it has to be pursued also in other fields -- political, which means accepting the principles of peaceful coexistence where you recognise the right of countries to decide their own path of development and also find solutions to regional problems and economic which includes the debt problem and the plight of developing countries. So we recognise that there can be no security if you don't seek solutions to these issues. So there are new concepts of security and we are actually witnessing just the beginning of this phase of the Soviet understanding the world.

KASHLEV ISSUES STATEMENT ON SECURITY, DISARMAMENT

LD191648 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1545 GMT 19 Dec 86

["Statement by the Head of the Soviet Delegation at the Vienna Meeting" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Vienna, 19 Dec (TASS) -- The concluding session of the first stage of the Vienna meeting of representatives of the states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe took place here today.

In his statement, the head of the USSR delegation, Ambassador Yu.B. Kashlev, noted that in the period after the Madrid meeting, as the discussion has shown, two tendencies in the approach of the participating countries to the problems of security in Europe and in the world as a whole were clearly revealed. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries embodied one tendency. Its landmarks were the program put forward in the statement on 15 January of this year on eliminating nuclear and other forms of mass annihilation weapons by the end of the present century; the bold and cardinal proposals by the USSR in Reykjavik; the unilateral cessation of nuclear tests by the Soviet Union (silence has held sway on our test sites for 500 days already); the large-scale proposals by the Warsaw Pact states on reducing armed forces and conventional weapons from the Atlantic to the Urals; and a number of others. Acting in the spirit of Helsinki, the Soviet Union stated its willingness to discuss the issue of the non-nuclear status of the Baltic Sea area, dismantled medium-range missile launching facilities on the Kola Peninsula, and a large part of them on the territory of the relevant military districts (okrug).

In the United Nations, socialist countries put forward proposals on the creation of an all-encompassing system of international security. All this is aimed at one objective -- to ensure a fundamental change in international affairs and to achieve radical improvement of the situation in Europe and in the world as a whole.

The second approach found its expression in the U.S. adoption of the "Star Wars" program and, drawing other countries into it, breaking off the accords that were outlined in Reykjavik and fully eliminating its consequences; in the continuing tests of nuclear weapons; in breaking the SALT II treaty, which curbs the arms race; and in undermining the foundations of the ABM Treaty. The U.S. policy in the Mediterranean region is seriously undermining all-European security, too.

The draft of the document on additions to the mandate of the Stockholm conference put forward by the PPR delegation will make possible a transition to practical talks within the framework of the CSCE on cutting armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. It takes into account the profound interest which the West European countries are showing in reducing military confrontation in Europe. The NATO side has not yet undertaken serious steps in this direction.

International law issues relating to principles and humanitarian cooperation occupied a large and important place in the discussions.

The representatives of the United States -- a country that has carried out flagrant acts of direct aggression against Libya, Grenada, Nicaragua; that has trampled on the principles of the Helsinki Declaration, by which the member-states took on the obligation to be guided not only in relations with one another, but also in relations with other states of the world -- had no scruples about putting on a magistrate's robe and appearing at our meeting in the role of defenders of international law and order.

The discussion of human rights issues at the Vienna meeting, which diverted from the problems of observation of these rights and was used only for the purpose of confrontation, leaves an oppressive impression. The way proposed by the United States delegation leads to nowhere. Our task is to enable this meeting to take a step toward the noble goals laid down in the Final Act.

The U.S. delegation tried to continue this same confrontational line during discussion of specific issues of cooperation in humanitarian spheres.

The Soviet delegation hopes that reason, goodwill, and a general commitment to success will predominate, and that after the recess, we will together be able to engage in constructive work, the head of the Soviet delegation declared.

ZHOLKVER HITS REAGAN'S NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS

LD292031 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Political Observer Aleksandr Zholkver commentary]

[Text] President Reagan has made a New Year's address on the radio. Here is a commentary by our Political Observer Aleksandr Zholkver:

[Zholkver] In the part of the speech devoted to the international situation, the President's emphatic optimism attracts attention. He declares that the past year was good for the cause of peace throughout the world and even for the progress of Soviet-U.S. relations. The White House boss finished his speech with the chorus from the popular U.S. song "That Was a Very Good Year". Well, what of it? Both a musical ear and optimism are praiseworthy human qualities. However, as is known, neither the words nor even the song but the real facts are by far the most important things. For the Washington administration in the past year these were by no means so good.

Indeed, what has Washington been doing in the past year, which, as you recall, was declared International Year of Peace by the United Nations? Twenty-four nuclear blasts on the test range in Nevada; 50 new MX intercontinental missiles; 9 new nuclear submarines; 131 long-range bombers equipped with cruise missiles; tests of antisatellite weapons in space and the buildup of conventional arms on earth; the raids by U.S. bombers on Libyan towns; flights by U.S. military transport planes with weapons for the contras in Nicaragua; and deliveries of U.S. weapons to Iran and the Afghan bandits and to the terrorist bands in Angola and Mozambique. Does the White House consider all this to be a contribution to the cause of peace?

As far as Soviet-U.S. relations are concerned, can the way Washington has behaved since Reykjavik really be regarded as helping progress, when the White House has started to disown not only the USSR's new proposals on nuclear disarmament, but also the previous Soviet-U.S. agreements on limiting the arms race on earth, and preventing one in space?

So, as far as the Washington administration's activities are concerned, it is difficult to recall the past year good for the cause of peace and for Soviet-U.S. relations. Nevertheless, on the threshold of the new year there really are grounds for optimism. For example, I have in mind the thoughts in the magazine MONTHLY REVIEW by 25 leading U.S. observers, scientists and experts on international affairs. Recognizing the consistency and constructive nature of the USSR's peace initiatives, from the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear blasts to the Soviet proposals on reducing both nuclear and conventional arms, they come to the conclusion that all is still not lost. Perhaps I can agree with this version of optimism.

BOVIN VIEWS REAGAN'S LAST TWO YEARS OF 'REIGN'

LD282138 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Dec

[From the "International Panorama" program; presented by Aleksandr Bovin]

[Text] There is Oliver North, a symbol in the United States. It is said that North is a very devoted supporter, a fanatical supporter of the President.

There you have the irony of history. It is precisely with the name of Oliver North, or Ollie, as his friends affectionately call him, that perhaps the most disgraceful page in the political biography of the President is associated. The White House is now virtually under siege, and it is thought that after Irangate, Reagan will no longer be able to be his former self. He has 2 years left to reign, and perhaps less and less time to rule.

Well, you know that education and culture are not the President's forte, but as far as politics is concerned he is very energetic -- he is a very slick politician, he is very good at sensing the mood of people. Now he has become a victim of his own arrogance. He has reassessed his unsinkability, his invulnerability. This was also demonstrated by the elections to Congress at the beginning of November. A few days ago, the President said to Senator Dole, so aggrieved: People like me, but they don't believe me. There you have the President's self-criticism, if you please.

Well, of course, if there are no surprises of any kind, we still have a fairly long time to deal with this administration. Nevertheless, in my view, one ought to be thinking already about the post-Reagan period, and also tote up the political points for the period after Reagan. Well, what if Reagan stops being Reagan and agrees to begin disarmament? Well, that would be wonderful, but somehow dubious. I am afraid of something else. What if he slams the door? In Nicaragua, for example?

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA PROFILES CIA DIRECTOR CASEY

PM231155 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Dec 86 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed article: "Untouchable Crook. Political Profile of CIA Director W. Casey" -- first two paragraphs are SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] Who rules America? Who are the people who decide its destiny? They are well known. It is sufficient to open the "Who's Who" directory.... Government officials. Pentagon generals. Financial heavyweights. And yet, the answer would be incomplete. The CIA has to be added to "the powers that be."

This is the idea pursued by international journalists Yu. Kornilov and G. Shishkin in the book "Who Rules America" [Kto Pravit Amerikoy], due to be published by the Political Literature Publishing House. W. Casey heads the CIA. We offer his political profile to our readers.

It was at the end of June 1985 that L. Goldenson, chairman of the Board of Directors of ABC, Inc., one of the top three U.S. television companies, chaired for the last time a meeting of the corporation's shareholders and resigned his post. The reasons was that ABC, Inc. had been "taken over" for an impressive sum of money by the major Capital Cities Communication Incorporated conglomerate. On the face of it a commonplace deal for America, when a more powerful corporation swallows its competitor. But this was not quite so in this case. The point is that the founder of Capital Cities decision to acquire a parcel of shares giving it controlling interest in none other than ABC, Inc. was no accident. Casey had particular accounts to settle with ABC, Inc. Back in 1984 it dared to describe an undercover operation by Casey's agency -- the attempted assassination of a CIA agent for disclosing certain details concerning subversive activity by the "cloak and dagger knights" in Asia. [paragraph continued]

The Federal Communications Commission turned down a CIA demand for "sanctions" against ABC, but Casey threatened that he would find ways to impose silence on the television company.

Never before in America's history has there been such a boom period for the so-called U.S. "intelligence community" as during the Reagan administration, which took a course of exacerbating the international situation and elaborated the doctrine of "crusade" and "direct confrontation" with world socialism. The all-around activation and enhancement of the role played by this "community" and its nucleus -- the CIA -- were presaged by the very first Republican Party election platform, announced in 1980. On coming to power, the Republicans first and foremost freed the CIA (and the other special services) from "excessive tutelage" by Congress, then immediately started drafting a number of directive documents substantially expanding the special services' rights and spheres of operation. This was the goal pursued by the President's Executive Order No. 12333, signed back in December 1981, which emphasized that the CIA's "purpose is to conduct special actions approved by the President." There was total restoration of the CIA's "right" to engage in the subversive and, of course, completely unconstitutional activity that it had pursued earlier, the level of which was somewhat curtailed following scandalous revelations in the seventies. Only 6 months later -- on 23 June 1982 -- Reagan signed a law aimed at protecting the U.S. intelligence services from "difficulties" involving the publication of data on their activity. Since then in the United States the threat of the harshest criminal persecution hangs over anyone who dares to publish materials on subversive activity by the special services or reports that a particular person may be on the staff of the intelligence services.

The White House did not just untie the CIA's hands, but also decided to put at the head of this agency a figure who could -- in practice and within the shortest possible time -- sharply activate one of the main tools for the implementation of Washington's global hegemonist schemes. The choice fell on William Joseph Casey. That was no accident. Casey is yet another representative of U.S. big business circles which have long and firmly established ties with official Washington. Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, U.S. undersecretary of state, and chairman of the Import-Export Bank Board under Nixon and Ford -- these are the stages of his career. Anticomunist, a millionaire whose assets have doubled in the last few years and are now in excess of \$12 million; a major owner of real estate in Washington, Palm Beach, and Long Island; co-owner of the prestigious law firms of Hall, Casey, Dickler and Howley in New York, and Scribner, Hall, Casey, Thornburg and Thompson in Washington; and shareholder in more than 70 other firms, he has enjoyed Reagan's boundless confidence for a long time.

Since the "intelligence community" and primarily the CIA have now been assigned a special role by Washington, the prerogatives vested in Casey are beyond comparison with the prerogatives of his predecessors. Casey is the main adviser of the President and the National Security Council on "national intelligence" questions. He was given the rank of minister in an interdepartmental committee set up under the President where, together with the secretaries of state and defense, he participates in discussions of the most important political problems. He is also head of the CIA, which exercises operational control over the activity of all U.S. civilian and military special services.

The role assigned to W. Casey and the agency he heads, which engages in military, political, and economic espionage against more than 150 states, was emphasized by THE WASHINGTON POST in its 9 March 1986 issue: "This former international banker and lawyer occupies the top position among senior cabinet members, as a result of which he has become perhaps the most influential CIA director since Allen Dulles."

According to evidence cited by British journalist and writer B. Freemantle in his book "The CIA" (New York, 1984), the total expenditure by the U.S. "intelligence community" stood at no less than \$10 billion a year in the early eighties, and by the mid-eighties had reached, according to U.S. press reports, 24 billion. Senator D. Moynihan noted that the CIA's budget "exceeds in size everything known hitherto in any country or in history." The number of CIA permanent staffers is in excess of 16,000 and continues to grow. B. Freemantle stressed that the CIA is "a powerful multinational business conglomerate," owning airlines and other transport companies, merchant fleets, banks, fashionable hotels, and radio and television stations. It is known, for example, that airlines like Air America, Civil Air Transport, and Southern Transport are nothing but covers for U.S. intelligence centers. About 60 firms providing covers for CIA agents are entrenched in Dade County, Florida, from where anti-Cuban propaganda and subversion operations are organized.

"The CIA director approaches his duties in a strictly practical manner: If the United States were to benefit from the secret information gathered by his agency, why should he personally not benefit?" -- THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE wrote. Hence, Casey -- as members of Congress were told -- sold \$600,000 worth of shares he owned in oil companies right on the day before the price of these shares fell. It was established that Casey's efforts covered up unseemly financial dealings by ITT. It was revealed that Casey, together with other officers of the now bankrupt Multiponics agricultural company (New Orleans), is guilty of fraudulently receiving \$3.5 million from small investors... It was established, for example, that Casey was also involved in the forgery of compromising material against Democrat J. Carter, which helped the Republican candidate's victory in the 1980 election. That, on taking office as CIA director, he "forgot" to report that as a lawyer he was handling cases for almost 70 clients and was the defendant in four civil actions, or that he had failed to place the shares he owned in trust, as required by regulations applicable to senior civil servants. That, in an attempt to evade taxes, he concealed a significant part of his property and that, being shareholder in a number of major companies which are secret suppliers of the CIA, he exploits his official position to supply them with profitable orders....

It is typical that the lion's share of equipment and technology orders for the CIA are placed with concerns and firms established in California. "There are few other sectors of the U.S. economy," the West German journal DER SPIEGEL wrote, "where the symbiosis of government and private interests is so little known and yet so manifest as in California's Silicon Valley, which houses most of the 87 California firms ranking among the 'Top 500' U.S. corporations.... All these firms are backed by big brothers -- the Pentagon, the CIA, the National Security Agency....

There is another interesting fact. Way back in the summer of 1979 the U.S. bourgeois press -- and not just a single paper but 25 of them at once -- carried an extensive militarist appeal calling for support for the government program for the creation [sozdaniye] of an ABM defense system. Who was it that issued such a bellicose appeal to the public? It was established that 14 of the 344 persons who signed the appeal (and, of course, paid for its publication) were directors, associates, or lawyers of firms already executing ABM contracts worth a total of more than 1 billion dollars; more than 20 persons were involved with companies which would have become subcontractors in the performance of these contracts if Congress had approved the relevant appropriations; and 20 represented firms among the top 100 weapons manufacturers. The initiator of the appeal's composition and publication was some "Citizen's Committee for Peace Through Security," founded by none other than the rich lawyer and Republican Party functionary W. Casey.

Voices demanding Casey's resignation have been heard on many occasions in the U.S. Congress in connection with public scandals. [paragraph continues]

Even though such demands have been made not only by Democrats but also by a number of Republican congressmen, including W. Roth (Delaware), T. Stevens (Alaska), and even such a rightwing reactionary figure as B. Goldwater, none of these demands has even slightly shaken the CIA director, who has been styled by a Washington newspaper -- not without justification -- Casey the untouchable.

One of secrets of the CIA chief's untouchability lies in the long-established, ramified, and firm ties he and his entourage have with the powers that be in America. For a long time now the CIA has been a kind of incubator and source of cadres for the top echelons of power in the United States: It is difficult to find a section at virtually any level of the U.S. hierarchical ladder, be it the White House, the Pentagon, the Department of State, or any other federal department, the Senate, or the House of Representatives, where key posts are not held by "CIA people," people who have undergone training the CIA, owe their career to that agency, or are most closely tied to it.

COMMENTARY DERIDES U.S.-HONDURAN 'OPERATIONS'

LD302329 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Viktor Ivanov commentary]

[Excerpt] Honduras and the United States have begun joint military exercises near the border with Nicaragua. Viktor Ivanov comments:

The war games are going to last 4 months. The several thousand Honduran and American troops involved in them will be engaged in building airfields and communication lines in an area adjacent to the border with Nicaragua. Next week another exercise will get underway in which army units will be airlifted from the United States to Honduras. That exercise is going to continue until May.

The past few years have seen quite a few military exercises in Honduras near the Nicaraguan border. The United States has, since 1982, been carrying out an extensive program for turning that Central American country into what can be described as a police station. All of Honduras is now covered with a network of army bases, airfields, communication posts, depots and communication lines, which can be used for combat operations. The United States makes no secret of the likely target for such operations. That target is Nicaragua, a country Washington has repeatedly threatened with a direct military intervention.

What is the aim of the current exercises -- the customary show of muscle or something more dangerous? They look very much like a well-camouflaged preparation for a surprise invasion. There have been quite a few alarming signs pointing to the worst. The U.S. Administration in the outgoing year markedly stepped up its undeclared war against Nicaragua -- militarily, politically, economically and ideologically. Formal support resumed for the contra rebels. [passage omitted]

If we look back on the war in Vietnam we shall see that the United States has, in relation to Nicaragua, passed all the stages that preceded its aggression in Indochina -- first money and arms, which were followed by military advisers. The next step was the landing of regular American Army units. As the Nicaraguans repel attacks by hostile forces they are sustaining heavy losses. In all, 34,000 people have been killed in Nicaragua over the past 5 years, an enormous figure for such a small country.

PRC REPORTS ON SHANGHAI DEMONSTRATIONS REVIEWED

PM291601 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

["Articles in the Chinese Press" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Beijing, 26 Dec (TASS) -- The demonstration by students of a number of Shanghai's institutions of higher learning held in the biggest city of China for several days are a key topic of the Chinese national press, among them the newspapers RENMIN RIBAO, GUANGMING RIBAO, BEIJING RIBAO, and others.

A report by XINHUA news agency from Shanghai published by the newspapers points out that during the student demonstrations, in addition to slogans on the need to improve the students' living conditions and material position and make changes to the organization of the teaching process, demands were made concerning a reform of the political structure in China, as well as demands for "broad democracy" and even "restructuring China's life -- Western style".

An article by a RENMIN RIBAO commentator, reprinted by other Beijing newspapers, says that "work to deepen the reform of the economic system under way in the country should simultaneously be complemented with a corresponding reform of the political structure. But this reform is a highly complex matter. It calls for prudence and carefulness. It cannot be affected all at once. The last few years have witnessed concrete steps and vigorous search in this direction".

In the years of the "Cultural Revolution", the newspaper writes, a handful of careerists and intriguers exploited the so-called broad democracy and under the pretext of launching "revolution" instigated masses, particularly students, to debates, demonstrations, protests, and pasting of "dazi bao".

History already proved that this kind of "broad democracy" sparked off unprecedented unrest and brought stupendous disaster to the state and the people. The younger generation of that time suffered most of all from this.

RENMIN RIBAO urges all those who show concern for a reform of the political structure, including students, to prevent the recurrence of the tragedy of the "Cultural Revolution".

"If some people erroneously assess the situation and instigate masses to effecting 'broader democracy' in an attempt to get rid of the party's guidance, stray from the socialist direction, and obstruct the work to implement the reform, they will fail to do it. All of them will reap the bitter fruits of their activity. A reform of the political set-up should be a self-refinement of the socialist system. It should be carried out under the guidance of the Communist Party of China", the article points out.

PRC RESEARCH SHIP ARRIVES IN ANTARCTICA

PM311145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "To the South Pole"]

[Text] Beijing, 29 Dec -- The first Chinese special scientific research ship ("Polyus") has safely reached the southern continent after traveling more than 15,000 miles. It has conveyed to Antarctica 127 researchers who are to construct the "Changcheng" ("Great Wall") scientific station and begin fulfilling an extensive scientific research program.

This is the third Chinese scientific expedition to arrive in Antarctica.

PRAVDA RUNS ELECTION GREETINGS TO DPRK LEADERS

President Kim Il-song

PM311011 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium congratulations to Kim Il-song on reelection as DPRK president]

[Text] To Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK:
Esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song!

We cordially congratulate you on your reelection as president of the DPRK. Your unanimous election to the top state post is recognition of your outstanding role in organizing the DPRK working people's struggle for the successful building of a socialist society and the country's peaceful unification on democratic principles. We are firmly confident that the traditional relations of fraternal friendship and cooperation between our two countries' parties, governments, and peoples will continue to develop and deepen unswervingly on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance and in accordance with the accords reached during the top-level talks in Moscow in October 1986.

We take this opportunity to wish you, Comrade Kim Il-song, good health and new successes in your noble activity for the good of the Korean people and in the interests of peace and progress.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Premier Yi Kun-mo

PM311013 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[USSR Council of Ministers congratulations to Yi Kun-mo on appointment as DPRK premier]

[Text] To Comrade Yi Kun-mo, premier of the DPRK Administration Council:
Esteemed Comrade Yi Kun-mo!

Accept cordial congratulations on your appointment to the post of premier of the DPRK Administration Council. We wish you successes in your activity in this high post for the good of the Korean people and in the name of strengthening the traditional relations of fraternal friendship between the USSR and the DPRK and peace throughout the world. The USSR Council of Ministers.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam

PM311015 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 86 First Edition p 4

[USSR Foreign Ministry congratulations to Kim Yong-nam on reappointment as DPRK foreign minister]

[Text] To Comrade Kim Yong-nam, DPRK minister of foreign affairs:

We congratulate you on your reappointment to the post of DPRK foreign minister. We wish you further successes in your activity for the good of the Korean people, in the interests of the further progressive development of friendly Soviet-Korean relations, and in the name of peace and socialism.

The USSR Foreign Ministry.

DRA'S NAJIB COMMENTS ON SOCIOPOLITICAL SITUATION

PM301255 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by correspondents A. Gorokhov and V. Okulov: "'Revolution Demands Action:' PRAVDA Correspondents' Conversation With Najib, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee"]

[Text] Kabul -- We talked with Comrade Najib in his office in the building of the party's Central Committee, drank tea in accordance with the Afghan custom, and asked him about his recent visit to the Soviet Union, the situation in contemporary Afghanistan, and his personal destiny.

"The visit to the Soviet Union was an event of exceptional importance in the matter of further strengthening Afghan-Soviet relations," Najib said. "We also exchanged opinions on questions of reaching a political settlement around Afghanistan, achieving national reconciliation, and ensuring stability and security in the country. The talks were of an open and confiding nature. Only brothers can meet and talk with each other in this way..."

Our interlocutor is a tall, strongly built, charming man -- with the Afghan's usual shiny black mustache and an attentive and stern gaze. Comradely conversation is facilitated by Najib's predisposition toward making a point of holding regular meetings with journalists -- both Afghan and foreign.

"I grew up in Paktia Province, in the family of a state employee," Najib said. "In the sixties my father was Afghan consul in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, and the time during which I was growing up was marked in Afghanistan by an awakening of public awareness and the activation of political movements in various strata of society. The PDPA came into being in 1965, uniting progressive representatives of the democratic intelligentsia, patriotically minded officers, conscious workers, and youth movement activists. I too joined its ranks that year."

"You were elected general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee at the beginning of May 1986..."

"Of course, 8 months is not a long time. Although not everything is being done as we would like it, the chief trend has manifested itself during this time -- dynamism in solving urgent problems. A most characteristic feature of the past period has been the activation of the policy of strengthening the party ranks' cohesion, strengthening unity in the party leadership, and asserting the principle of collegiality. We want to have a strong collective of like-minded people, and the wider the circle of people actively involved in elaborating decisions, the better. To this end, membership of the Central Committee was almost doubled at the 19th plenum. Improving the style and methods of work is a complex matter. It includes measures to improve cadre policy, the provision of regular training for party cadres, and stronger ties between the center and the provinces. Daily reception of members of the population by the country's top leadership has been organized. It takes place in the (Delkusha) Palace, to which only recently people used to be denied access."

Let us supplement Comrade Najib's story. He tours the provinces and meets with workers, servicemen, party activists, and representatives of tribes, the clergy, and national minorities. We asked the general secretary to show us his weekly diary, which we had been told about at the Central Committee. In the diary, the week is divided up not just into hours but even minutes.

Implementing the party's strategy of broadening the social base of people's power, the Central Committee headed by Najib seeks at the same time to wage an active struggle against clannishness and the taking advantage of ties of kinship. In Comrade Najib's opinion, it has become an urgent task to step up monitoring of the fulfillment of adopted decisions and to prevent words and deeds from diverging.

"There is one law for all in the party," he emphasized. "Our aim is an uncompromising struggle for honesty and purity."

The general secretary's report at the recent 20th Central Committee Plenum resounded precisely in the spirit of critical analysis. The plenum discussed the party's urgent tasks and the process of broadening the revolution's social base.

"The idea of a new approach to strengthening the foundations of people's power," our interlocutor said, "is the key to solving our society's chief problems and, above all, to achieving peace and tranquillity. We actively seek paths of national compromise and are ready for it, even including the creation of a government of national unity. The people are tired of the war and the dushman brigandage. People are seeking to end the bloodshed, and it is the task of all serious and responsible politicians to help them in this. State organs throughout the country are not only waging a struggle against the gangs but also starting a dialogue with them. During the year almost 13,000 people have gone over to the revolution's side. They have laid down their arms. The time will come when peace jirgahs are held in every village. As experience has shown, we are able to widely involve representatives of public forces outside the party in the country's leadership. For example, the DRA Revolutionary Council, the Council of Ministers, and the National Fatherland Front Central Council have gained 133 new members over quite a short period. More than one-third of them are nonparty people."

We asked our interlocutor to assess the situation in the country.

"The year 1986," he said, "has been a year of the further normalization of the military-political situation and the implementation of major sociopolitical and economic transformations. More than 14,000 people's representatives have been elected to local organs of power and management. The draft DRA Constitution is being finalized and will be submitted for general discussion. The 5-year plan, which began in March, has made a good start. All production ministries are meeting targets for the first time. The 6-month plan in the state and mixed sectors was fulfilled by 110.8 percent. The contribution of land and water reform, we are elaborating the tactics and strategy of the PDPA's agrarian policy. This will make it more efficient.

"Work with tribes is being stepped up. Significant funds have been allocated to developing their chief settlement zone -- the border provinces. We are endeavoring to make better use of the peacemaking potential of the clergy, whose progressive section supports the people's power.

"We will strive persistently to fulfill the 5-year plan target of extending primary education to cover 65 percent of children. In a few years' time, the first postrevolutionary generation will start to actively join in the country's life. And we consider work with it a top priority right now, for it is the revolution's future mainstay.

"The combat potential of the Afghan Armed Forces is strengthening. The gangs have already felt this for themselves. Preconditions have been created for a cardinal breakthrough in events in Afghanistan in the revolutionary forces' favor.

Our task is to realize them. For this we have to solve many serious problems and overcome the inability and sometimes even the reluctance to reorganize.

"We are gambling on a political solution to the problem around Afghanistan. Extending the hand of friendship to the peoples of Pakistan, Iran, and other countries in the region, we say: Let us solve problems not by force of arms but by peaceful means."

To conclude the conversation, Comrade Najib returned to the topic with which it began.

"The friendship of our countries," he said, "is a friendship of peoples. And it has been tested by time. The DRA and the USSR have stood and will stand shoulder to shoulder."

Najib's parting shot was a vigorous exclamation:

"The revolution demands action!"

DRA DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES REVIEWED

PM301530 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[Vadim Okulov "Commentator's Column": "A Realistic Course"]

[Text] Kabul -- Increasingly broad strata of Afghanistan's population, including representatives of those who once succumbed to the lying propaganda of the forces of counterrevolution, are joining in the peaceful process of the country's economic and social development.

This is promoted by the multifaceted work of the PDPA and organs of state power. In this process, decisive significance is attached to increasing the combat capability of the Afghan Army, which has recently struck mighty blows against dushman gangs and bases in a number of the country's provinces, and also to the growing influence exerted on the military-political situation by the PDPA's course of national reconciliation. This realistic course is supported by representatives of a wide spectrum of political forces in the DRA and elsewhere. As a result, some 13,000 people have laid down their arms and gone over to the side of the people's power within a year.

The implementation of the program for restoring peace on Afghan soil is taking shape against a favorable sociopolitical background. Wherever the situation permits, elections are taking place to local organs of state power and administration. The DRA Constitution is being completed and will be submitted for nationwide discussion. The new 5-year plan, which began in March, got off to a good start. The contribution of private capital to the development of the country's economy has grown. The tactics and strategy of the PDPA's agrarian policy are being refined, which will promote the more effective progress of the land and water reform.

However, the development of the national democratic revolution is still a difficult and in many ways contradictory process. After critically evaluating what has been done, the PDPA set the task of increasing the responsibility of party members for bringing all progressive initiatives to a conclusion and stepping up the restructuring of party and ideological work in the interests of widening the social base of power and establishing peace and tranquillity in the country. The DRA, extending the hand of friendship to its neighbors in the region, makes persistent efforts to ensure that the problems surrounding Afghanistan are resolved by means of a speedy political settlement.

Full support for these efforts on the part of the DRA was expressed by the Soviet Union during the official friendly visit to our country by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. The Soviet side stressed that the normalization of the Afghanistan situation would create the conditions for a return home by the limited contingent of Soviet troops who are in the DRA at the request of the Afghan Government. The fact that the USSR's words do not diverge from its deeds is indicated by the recent return of six Soviet regiments from the DRA.

The response to this step and to the DRA leadership's constructive efforts toward national reconciliation could and should be the curtailing of all outside interference in the affairs of this independent state.

KABUL-HAYRATON HIGHWAY, TUNNEL WORK COMPLETED

LD252213 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0945 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, 25 December -- TASS correspondent German Baykov reports:

A festive ceremony took place at the mountainous Salang Pass today to mark the completion of reconstruction of the entire complex of road installations on the Kabul-Hayraton highway. Engineer Nazar Mohammad, DRA minister of public works, participated in this festive gathering of the Soviet and Afghan builders.

The great importance to Afghanistan of this transport artery, linking the center of the country with the frontier regions, is well known. The Afghan people call it the "road of life." Food, industrial goods, fuel, and other cargoes are delivered by way of the road from the port of Hayraton to Kabul and other regions of the country. The "key" to the road is the Salang tunnel, over 2.5 km in length, which passes through the Hindu Kush ridge at an altitude of about 3,500 meters. It was built with the help of the Soviet Union.

For many years the tunnel successfully coped with the tasks it had to fulfill, but in recent years the movement of motor vehicles was hindered due to the increased truck traffic. It was decided to carry out reconstruction of the technical systems of the Salang tunnel, to improve the ventilation and power supply, install automation in signalling systems and telephone and television communications, and to build new technical installations.

The Soviet specialists started carrying out this work at the end of 1984, and thanks to selfless labor in difficult mountainous conditions, they were able to accomplish the set task within a tight schedule.

Reconstruction of the tunnel's technical systems has made it possible to triple its capacity and bring this up to 1500 vehicles per hour, which fully solves the problem of uninterrupted transport of freight along the Kabul-Hayraton road. The reconstructed Salang tunnel is another bridge page in the history of Soviet-Afghan economic cooperation.

GORBACHEV RECEIVES ITALIAN CP OFFICIAL OCCHETTO

LD301710 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev today received member of the leadership and Secretariat of the Italian Communist Party Achille Occhetto and had a conversation with him. The conversation passed in a friendly atmosphere characteristic of relations between the CPSU and the Italian Communist Party.

Meets With Ligachev, Dobrynin

LD302002 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS -- Yegor Ligachev, a member of the Politbureau and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Anatoliy Dobrynin, a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today had a meeting with Achille Occhetto, a member of the leadership and Secretariat of the Italian Communist Party.

In the course of their conversation, which passed in a friendly and constructive atmosphere, the sides discussed key problems of today's international situation, the basic aspects of international developments since the Reykjavik meeting and some issues of Soviet-Italian relations and contacts between the CPSU and the ICP.

The sides exchanged information about the situation in the USSR and Italy. Yegor Ligachev and Anatoliy Dobrynin described the progress of deep-going reorganisation in Soviet society, the positive change in the process of its all-embracing renovation, change that is gaining momentum, difficulties and problems on that road, and also supplied detailed information on the CPSU's efforts to fulfill the resolutions of the 27th party congress.

Achille Occhetto described the situation in Italy and the activities of the Italian Communists to fulfill the resolutions of the 17th ICP Congress, and the role of the Communist Party in Italy and in the context of the European left forces.

Discussing international issues, the sides stressed the necessity further to expand efforts for peace, the development of democracy and a new international economic order, noted a vital need for peaceful coexistence of states with different socio-political systems and for the lessening of tension in international relations, and stressed specifically the role of Europe.

In this context the sides emphasized the need for make every effort to reverse the arms race, prevent the militarisation of space and seek concrete results towards a verifiable and balanced nuclear disarmament and towards a nuclear test ban.

INCREASINGLY 'SINISTER' U.S.-ISRAELI LINKS HIT

PM301635 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[Yuriy Glukhov "Commentator's Column": "Helping the Aggressor"]

[Text] Beirut -- American-Israeli working groups have held talks in Israel on "strategic cooperation." At the center of attention was the question of granting Israel the status of an American ally with "special privileges" -- a status enjoyed by the United States' NATO partners.

This status opens up broad possibilities for further strengthening the militarist alliance of Washington and Tel Aviv. As Tel Aviv radio has reported, in addition to the already existing sources of appropriations, the Israeli military could gain access to a special Pentagon budget to the tune of \$615 million -- to develop conventional arms.

So, the aggressive military-strategic alliance of Washington and Tel Aviv is taking on an increasingly sinister outline. Meetings of joint American-Israeli political and military working groups and cooperation between intelligence services have become routine. Pilots of the U.S. 6th Fleet are trained on Israeli test ranges in the Negev Desert. There are constant visits by ships of this fleet to the port of Haifa. Approximately 30,000 U.S. Navy sailors visited Israel in 1985 alone.

The average annual U.S. "aid" to Israel amounts to \$4.5 billion. In addition to increasing direct subsidies, the weekly MIDDLE EAST TIMES points out, considerable military appropriations are disguised in the budgets of various American departments and establishments, including agricultural, medical, and scientific ones. Thus, in 1982, for example, tractors purchased with donations from the American Jewish community did not reach Israeli farmers. They were used to raze bombarded Lebanese villages in order to open up the way for the aggressor's tanks.

The opportunities for covert fattening of the Israeli military-industrial complex are expanding considerably in connection with its involvement in the multibillion-dollar "Star Wars" program. The first contract under that program worth more than \$5 million was signed in November 1986. It is a question of the Israelis' developing [razrabotka] systems to intercept and destroy short-range missiles.

Israel is increasingly coming to the fore as American imperialism's strategic base and strike force in the eastern Mediterranean. The fact that Israel, in particular, is capable of mobilizing a 400,000-strong army in 72 hours figures in the Pentagon's Near East calculations. U.S. Senator R. Boschwitz, for example, has said this.

Israel's continuing occupation of southern Lebanon, the hostile anti-Syrian campaign, and blackmail on the part of the United States in alliance with Israel against a number of other Arab states -- all this is a direct consequence of the activation of the aggressive military-strategic alliance of Washington and Tel Aviv, which is jeopardizing peace and security throughout the Near East.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR MALI 5 DEC

PM101427 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] At the invitation of the National Assembly of Mali, a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by T.Kh. Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, left Moscow for an official visit to Bamako on 5 December. The delegation consists of the following USSR Supreme Soviet deputies: A.P. Dumachev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Training, A.S. Reshetnikova, chief agronomist of the "Druzhba" Kolkhoz in Odessa Oblast, and A.S. Sukhanov, leader of a team of tunnelers of the State Administration of the Construction of the Moscow Subway.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by V.S. Shevchenko, deputy chairman of the USSR Soviet Presidium.

Visit Summed Up

PM171327 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 5

["On the Visit of a USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation to the Republic of Mali" -- IZVESTIYA headline]

[Excerpt] A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by T.Kh. Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirghiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, visited the Republic of Mali 5-12 December 1986 on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the National Assembly.

During its stay in Mali the Soviet parliamentary delegation was received by Army General Moussa Traore, general secretary of the Mali People's Democratic Union [UDPM] and president of the Republic of Mali.

During their conversation, which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere, views were exchanged on a number of topical international problems and questions relating to prospects for the development of Soviet-Malian relations.

The Soviet delegation also met and had talks with members of the National Assembly Bureau, a number of members of the UDPM Central Executive Bureau and the Malian Government, and also leaders of the Mali-USSR Friendship Society.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation visited Bamako, Koulikoro, and Segou, where it was able to acquaint itself on site with the efforts and achievements of the Malian people in strengthening the country's national independence and stepping up its economic and social development.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies briefed the Malian side on the active, purposeful work under way in the Soviet Union in the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and of the course toward of all-around acceleration of the Soviet society's development, which will make it possible to make maximum use of the advantage of socialism for the benefit of the people and the cause of peace throughout the world.
[paragraph continues]

They briefed the Malian representatives in detail on the foreign policy activities of the USSR and the large-scale Soviet peace initiatives aimed at the elimination of nuclear and other types of mass destruction weapons and the consolidation of peace and international security. [passage omitted]

The Soviet side reaffirmed its high opinion of the policy conducted by the Republic of Mali in the international arena and emphasized its considerable contribution to the consolidation of the Nonaligned Movement on an anti-imperialist and anticolonialist basis.

An exchange of information about the activities of the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali and the USSR Supreme Soviet and about their contribution to the consolidation of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and the Malian peoples took place. Satisfaction was expressed at the high level of fruitful Soviet-Malian cooperation in various spheres, which received a new impetus through the official friendly visit to the USSR of Army General Moussa Traore, general secretary of the UDPM and president of the Republic of Mali, in July 1986.

The representatives of the two countries' parliaments reaffirmed their readiness to continue to develop and strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between the USSR and the Republic of Mali, between the National Assembly of the Republic of Mali and the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet and Malian peoples.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation invited a delegation of the Malian National Assembly to pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was gratefully accepted. The date of the visit will be agreed later.

The Soviet side expressed heartfelt gratitude for the warm and friendly welcome and hospitality shown the delegation during its stay in the Republic of Mali.

PARTY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ZAMBIA 16 DEC

PM291641 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] On 16 December a CPSU delegation headed by A.N. Plekhanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Kurgan CPSU Obkom, returned to Moscow from Lusaka. The delegation was in the Republic of Zambia in accordance with the schedule for links between the CPSU and the Zambian United National Independence Party.

COSTA RICA REFUSES TO RETURN 'WAR CRIMINAL'

LD310803 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] A Costa Rican court has refused the demand of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs to extradite to Soviet authorities (Bogdan Mazyy), a war criminal guilty of Nazi crimes during World War II. The USSR Embassy in Costa Rica turned to the responsible judicial court with a request to reexamine the matter. The general prosecution of Costa Rica also appealed against the decision of the court.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON MELNIKOV DELEGATION CUBA VISIT

PM231001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba [CPC], a delegation of CPSU officials headed by A.G. Melnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the CPSU Central Committee Construction Section, visited the Republic of Cuba 10-19 December. It exchanged experience of party leadership in the capital construction sphere.

During the visit the delegation had talks in the CPC Central Committee Construction Section, a number of the provincial and municipal party committees, and the Cuban Ministry of Construction, and visited construction sites and construction industry enterprises where it acquainted itself with party organizations' practical work in the implementation of the decisions of the Third CPC Congress.

The delegation was received by L. Soto, secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

KONCHITS DELEGATION RETURNS FROM CUBAN VISIT

PM181353 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 86 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Delegation's Return"]

[Text] The Soviet military delegation headed by Colonel General V.N. Konchits returned to Moscow from Havana 16 December after participating in the festivities marking the 30th anniversary of the landing from the yacht "Granma" and the creation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba.

The delegation was met at the airport by R. Mirabel Fernandez, Cuban charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR.

CUBAN FORCES POLITICAL DELEGATION ARRIVES 14 DEC

PM161225 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Dec 86 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "On a Friendly Visit"]

[Text] A delegation of leading political workers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba headed by Division General R. Acevedo Gonzalez, chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces Central Political Directorate, arrived in the Soviet Union 14 December on a friendly visit at the invitation of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The Cuban guests were met at the airport by Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and other political workers.

The welcoming party included R. Mirabal Fernandez, Cuban charge d'affairs ad interim in the Soviet Union.

Visit Reported, Ends

PM271511 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Dec 86 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Cuban Political Workers' Visit"]

[Text] A delegation of leading political workers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba headed by Division General R. Acevedo Gonzalez, chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces Central Political Directorate, visited the Soviet Union 14 through 21 December at the invitation of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

On 15 December Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, received Div Gen R. Acevedo Gonzalez.

Talks were held with Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. Participating in them were Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Colonel General V.S. Nechayev and Colonel General D.A. Volkogonov, deputy chiefs of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and other senior political workers.

At the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate and the Moscow Military District Political Directorate the Cuban comrades were familiarized with experience of party political work in the USSR Armed Forces and with political organs' activities in fulfilling the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. The Cuban political workers reported on progress in realizing the Third Communist Party of Cuba Congress decisions in the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The delegation visited the V.I. Lenin Military-Political Academy, the KRSNAYA ZVEZDA editorial offices, Soviet Army and Navy cultural and educational establishments, and the Yu.A. Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, and saw the sights of Moscow. The Cuban comrades visited the M.I. Kalinin Tatmansakya Motorized Infantry Guards Division, where a Soviet-Cuban combat cooperation rally was held.

The Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces delegation laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

The delegation left Moscow 21 December.

MOSCOW MARKS CUBAN REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY 30 DEC

FL302233 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1923 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A ceremony devoted to the 28th anniversary of the Cuban revolution was held today in Moscow with the participation of representatives of USSR political and social organizations and Cuban diplomatic personnel. The speakers stressed that the revolutionary triumph has paved the way for economic, political, and social transformations in Cuba.

They also hailed the effort of our people in building a socialist society. Our country's role in the struggle for world peace and its close cooperation with the other socialist states were highly assessed.

Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of our party's Politburo and Cuba's ambassador to the USSR, praised the firm relations between the two countries which grow stronger daily.

LEADERSHIP CONGRATULATES CASTRO ON REELECTION

PM301637 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Council of Ministers congratulations to Fidel Castro on reelection as president of the Cuban Council of State]

[Text] To Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

Dear Comrade Fidel Castro!

Accept cordial congratulations on your reelection as president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba -- head of state and government of the fraternal socialist country.

This unanimous decision by the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Power is one more expression of the exceptionally high prestige and boundless trust that the Communist Party of Cuba and you personally have won in the struggle to achieve the country's genuine national independence and consistently implement the ideals of the glorious Cuban revolution. We are profoundly convinced that the relations of indissoluble friendship and all-around cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba and between our peoples will develop and strengthen from day to day.

We express confidence that the Cuban working people will successfully achieve the targets outlined by the Third Communist Party of Cuba Congress in the economic and social development of society.

We wish you new successes in your activity in this high post for the good of the Cuban people and in the name of peace and progress.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium
The USSR Council of Ministers.

PRAVDA CITIES CASTRO ON CUBA'S SOCIALIST STRUGGLE

PM231645 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Speech by F. Castro"]

[Text] Havana, 22 Dec -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the republic's Councils of State and Ministers, has urged the Cuban working people to persistently raise the level of their professional training and education in order to comprehensively improve their work efficiency and likewise improve the quality of their work. [paragraph continues]

Speaking in Bayamo City -- the administrative center of Granma Province -- at the opening of a printing combine, he once again raised a number of issues relating to the process of rectifying shortcomings and eliminating negative phenomena in the country's economic life -- a process that has developed in the republic at the appeal of the Communist Party.

The Cuban people, F. Castro noted, now have a full idea of what is meant by socialism. Our people have a revolutionary culture and awareness, and consequently the main task of today is to struggle to improve work to the utmost and achieve the highest possible socioeconomic results.

Expressing his confidence that, under the leadership of their vanguard, the Communist Party Cuba, the country's people will overcome all shortcomings and any difficulties arising on the path to creating a new society, F. Castro stressed in conclusion: We are and always will be revolutionaries and builders of socialism.

PRAVDA CITES CASTRO SPEECH ON DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

PM291646 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Important Tasks"]

[Text] Havana, 27 Dec -- The successful resolution of the problems facing Cuba is a historic task for the Cuban people, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chairman of the republic's State Council and Council of Ministers, has stated. He was speaking at the 11th session of the National Assembly of People's Power, 2d convocation, which has just ended here, during the discussion of the draft integrated plan for socioeconomic development for 1987.

F. Castro dwelt in detail on the serious difficulties of an economic nature which the country has encountered in recent years. Recalling the steep fall in prices for sugar and certain other Cuban exports in the international markets, he stressed the urgent need to reduce imports and expand exports with a view to obtaining convertible currency which is needed for the successful development of the national economy and the supply of goods to the population. As a result of the sharp fall in currency revenue, for the first time in 27 years the country was unable to fulfill its international commitments. This situation was the cause of a new review of schedules for the payment of foreign debts, the Cuban leader said.

Despite these problems, F. Castro went on, 1986 passed normally on the whole, although the need arose to substantially revise next year's plan. The main efforts were aimed at not undermining the process of the country's economic development and not encroaching on the population's basic needs. Nonetheless, he noted, there will be certain limitations. The Cuban leader indicated that assistance in resolving this problem could not come from abroad. Cuba must resolve it by its own efforts and with its own resources.

F. Castro stressed the urgent need to implement a course of strict savings, including savings of energy resources. He cited the example of the sugar industry, whose enterprises, which formerly used some 500,000 tons of fuel annually to produce 5-6 million tons of sugar, today produce more than 7 million tons of sugar a year while having greatly reduced oil expenditure. Nonetheless, he went on, potential for further fuel savings exists in the country.

The Cuban leader dwelt on the consequences of unfavorable weather conditions in Cuba. The drought which has gripped the country since 1981 was especially severe this year. [paragraph continues]

Recalling the widespread construction of reservoirs and irrigation systems in the seventies, he pointed to the need to continue this work.

F. Castro devoted great attention to the measures which will be adopted in 1987 to conserve currency and achieve a domestic financial balance. He came out in favor of the accelerated completion of the construction of enterprises whose output will be able to replace imports from capitalist countries or will be exported to those countries. The Cuban leader also proposed a package of measures to strengthen the thrift policy. They include a significant reduction in the quantity of gasoline allocated to institutions, an additional expansion of textile exports, increased payments for electricity, increased retail prices for certain types of food, and payment for journeys on urban transport.

By way of compensation, pensions for various categories of working people will increase.

F. Castro stressed that rectifying the errors committed and eliminating the negative trends which have emerged is an important task facing the country. This is not only a moral and revolutionary duty, it is a vitally important economic necessity. The process of rectifying errors could lead to a tremendous increase in efficiency in the field of production and in the service sphere, he said.

The Cuban leader expressed firm faith that these problems will be successfully resolved. We have a party which numbers half a million people in its ranks, we have young people and mass public organizations, we have tremendous reserves, we have great experience. If we make optimum use of the available reserves and take account of the advantages of our relations with the socialist countries, we will be able to overcome these difficulties.

The Cuban leader expressed the profound conviction that the socialist system offers better opportunities for resolving any tasks. We have achieved much in past years. Today it is our responsibility not only to resolve our own problems, but also to set a good example of the means by which problems can and should be resolved under socialism. This is our historical task. I am absolutely certain that we are following the right path, he said.

RAUL CASTRO WRITES ON CUBAN MILITARY JUBILEE

PM081705 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Dec 86 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba: "On the 30th Anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba: Guarding Socialism's Gains"]

[Text] Three decades of almost continuous war against Spanish colonialism, which began in 1868, followed by 6 decades of the Cuban people's revolutionary struggle against bourgeois governments in the service of U.S. imperialism conditioned the new stage in our country's history. It began with the storming of the Moncada Barracks and ended with the victory of the Cuban revolution.

This victory was the crowning achievement of the heroes of the Sierra Maestra which began with the historic landing from the "Granma" 2 December 1956. That date is commemorated as the anniversary of this event and the birth of the insurgent army, whose traditions are faithfully continued by the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] of the Republic of Cuba.

Hardly had the revolution taken its first steps than it had to oppose internal counterrevolution and the increasing aggressiveness of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. Government quickly switched from threats to hostile diplomatic actions, economic blockade, support for subversive gangs, sabotage, and attempts on the lives of the revolution's leaders. The United States even prepared outright military aggression.

The rebuffing of the class enemy's first attacks and the 5 years of incessant fighting until the last of the 179 counterrevolutionary gangs operating on the country's territory were annihilated; imperialism's first military defeat in Latin America, inflicted on it at Playa Giron 16 April 1961, when an armed attempt was made to stifle our revolution literally a few hours after the proclamation of its socialist character; the October 1962 crisis; repeated mobilizations in menacing situations; and the international assistance to other peoples, primarily Angola and Ethiopia -- these are the main landmarks on the glorious path traveled by the FAR.

Our regular army's main feature has always been its close ties with the masses. It is part of the great army of our entire people who in the past, in the ranks of the revolutionary people's militia, and now, in the territorial people's volunteer troops, the regular army reserve, and other formations created for defense, are loyal to Lenin's behest that no revolution is worth anything unless it can be defended.

This behest is never forgotten by the Communist Party and Cuban Government, which pay maximum attention to the FAR and all defense questions. This instruction is followed, skillfully applied to our conditions, by Comrade Fidel Castro, founder of our state and commander in chief of our armed forces, who said: "History shows all too clearly that those who forget this principle fall victim to their own mistake."

Whenever necessary, the armed forces together with the entire people have always made their contribution to resolving the important economic tasks and taken an active part in eliminating the aftermath of natural disasters. More than 1 million young people have undergone a real schooling of life in the army. Many leading cadres working in party organs and various sections of the national economy have emerged from the ranks of our armed forces.

The FAR today is a modern, powerful army in constant combat readiness. Special mobile units have been created which are ready for immediate combat actions. The high degree of mechanization of the ground forces should be noted. They have great firepower, high maneuverability, and the ability to wage independent combat actions even as small subunits. The air defense forces, the air force, and the Revolutionary Navy are equipped with modern armaments and combat hardware, enabling them to repulse the enemy swiftly and effectively.

The most valuable and crucial element of the FAR is its people -- the servicemen -- who receive good combat and political training and who possess a lofty spirit of patriotism and internationalism. Officers from the backbone of our army. Over 85 percent of the officers belong to the Communist Party or the Union of Young Communists.

The FAR and all the elements forming our defense have undergone special development in recent years, when extreme right-wing forces in the United States have taken over the reins of power. The Reagan administration openly declared a crusade against socialism. This situation meant that Cuba faced the increasing aggressiveness of its immediate northern neighbor, which was immediately expressed in an intensification of the threats, economic blockade, and ideological subversion, including overt radio warfare. The United States, which has been ceaselessly improving both quantitatively and qualitatively its military machine threatening our country, is now capable of mounting large-scale aggression against us without needing special preparation for that purpose.

Evidence of that is provided by the deployment at Key West -- the U.S. territory closest to our shores -- of the U.S. armed forces command in the Caribbean, which is well known by the name of "Caribbean Command." It is designed primarily to control the large forces and resources during the preparation and launching of possible aggression against our country.

We are not frightened by the growth in the real threat. On the basis of an objective assessment of our real defense potential, the Cuban people have deployed adequate forces and created the conditions to counter imperialism's military aggression in its various forms. Thus, the aggressor in his schemes should also take account of the extremely high price he will have to pay for a military adventure against Cuba. The ignominious defeat of the aggressor can be the only result of such an adventure.

All the colossal work aimed at strengthening the country's defense capability is centered on the Communist Party of Cuba, which has the leading role in formulating and implementing defense concepts and plans and in creating our entire defensive system. The party has paid and continues to pay unremitting attention to its cadres' military training.

The work done is a real feat in which the Cuban people have been the main driving force. However, when we look back at the path we have traveled, particularly now, on the day of our noteworthy anniversary, we recall with profound gratitude that all these achievements were made possible by the generous international assistance of the CPSU, the Soviet Government, the fraternal Soviet people, and their illustrious Armed Forces. In the past 25 years the USSR has given us the armaments and combat hardware necessary for our defense.

Thousands of Cuban officers have been trained in military colleges and academies in the Soviet Union. Soviet specialists who have worked in Cuba during these years have not only given us their wealth of combat experience but have also set an example of modesty, selflessness, and the communist internationalist stance of sons of Lenin's motherland.

The history of the friendly ties between the Soviet Armed Forces and Cuba's FAR is one in which the main role is played by brotherhood, courage, and common ideals, and these ties will never be weakened or broken.

The Cuban people passionately desire and struggle for peace and see it as the necessary condition for the continuation of the constructive creation of socialism. For that reason they fully support the efforts of the CPSU and Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of its Central Committee, aimed at ending the arms race on earth and preventing its extension to space.

However, so long as the threat of aggression exists, we shall not leave our country's defense unattended for a moment. It is a powerful deterrent factor which is based on the conviction that, for Cuba, the greatest victory of its weapons would be that historical development which rendered the use of those weapons unnecessary.

CULTURE OFFICIAL ATTENDS ARTISTS UNION PLENUM

PM251451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Artists and the Time"]

[Text] A plenum of the USSR Artists Union Board was held 24 December in Moscow. It was devoted to the tasks of the multinational detachment of artists in the light of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures To Further Develop Fine Art and Increase Its Role in Working People's Communist Education."

T.T. Salakhov, first secretary of the creative union's board, and the other speakers emphasized that the resolution is evidence of recognition of art's important role in our country and is a vivid expression of concern for the all-around development of the sociocultural sphere of life. Artists regard it as a large-scale, long-term program whose implementation will lift their creativity to a qualitatively new level.

Ye.V. Zaytsev, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Culture Section, took part in the plenum.

OFFICIALS ATTEND SUPREME SOVIET COMMISSION SESSION

PM281717 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 86 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In the Standing Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Chambers"]

[Text] A joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Commissions on Maternity, Child Development, and the Work and Life of Women was held 19 December.

The question of the work being done in Kemerovo Oblast to ensure observance of the requirements of legislation on the teaching, education, and preparation for socially useful work of children with shortcomings in their mental and physical development was submitted for their consideration.

Participating in the commissions' work were P.M. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities; and T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

DEMICHEV AWARDS HONORS TO ACADEMICIANS, ARTISTS

LD261903 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has conferred awards of the Soviet Union to a group of scientific and artistic figures and party and state workers at the Kremlin. Orders of Lenin and the Gold Medals of the Hammer and Sickle of Heroes of Socialist Labor were awarded to Academicians Likhachev and Sheremet'yevskiy. The Order of Lenin was awarded to (Istolkos), corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The Order of the October Revolution was received by Dudarova, artistic head and chief director of the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra.

Orders of the Red Banner of labor, the Friendship of the Peoples and the Badge of Honor were also awarded.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Government, Comrade Demichev warmly congratulated those awarded and wished them new labor victories to the welfare of the motherland in the coming year. Recipients of awards expressed their deep gratitude to the Communist Party and the Soviet State for the high appraisal of their work and confirmed that they will continue to give all their strength, knowledge and experience in fulfilling the tasks set by the party to the Soviet people.

SECTOR TRADE UNION CONGRESSES HELD

PM291611 [Editorial Report] Moscow TRUD in Russian on 21 December carries on page 2 under the headline "More Concern for People" a 1,200-word O. Chikhladze report on an undated Moscow congress of the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry Workers Trade Union. The report states:

"Participating in the work of the congress were V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; V.G. Afonin, chief of the CPSU Central Committee chemical Industry Section; and leaders of ministries and departments. The congress was addressed by AUCCTU Secretary G.F. Sukhoruchenkova.

"The congress elected the new composition of the trade union's Central Committee and Auditing Commission and the delegates to the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress.

"A plenum of the trade union Central Committee elected V.K. Borodin chairman of the trade union Central Committee."

Under the same general headline the newspaper carries a 1,000-word O. Grigoryev report on an undated Moscow congress of the Timber, Paper, and Wood Processing Industry Workers Trade Union, which states:

"Participating in the work of the congress were I.P. Dyatlov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Construction Section, and leaders of ministries and departments. The congress was addressed by AUCCTU Secretary K.T. Turysov.

"The congress elected the new composition of the trade union's Central Committee and Auditing Commission and the delegates to the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress.

"A plenum of the trade union Central Committee elected M.V. Kuleshov chairman of the trade union Central Committee."

AUCCTU PLENUM ELECTS NEW OFFICIALS 29 DECEMBER

LD291754 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] A plenum of the AUCCTU took place today. Next year's budget of USSR trade unions and the state social insurance budget that is managed by the trade unions were examined.

Noting that social matters and the interests of working people should always be a top priority for trade unions, the keynote speaker, AUCCTU Secretary Sukhoruchenkova, and others who spoke, linked them closely with the restructuring tasks currently being carried out in the country's trade union organizations. Particular attention was devoted to the radical restructuring of trade unions' cultural and educational work and the introduction of effective forms for organizing people's leisure activities.

The plenum also examined organizational matters. In connection with his confirmation as editor in chief of the journal PROBLEMY MIRA I SOTSIALIZMA, Comrade Subbotin has been released from his duties as secretary of the AUCCTU and member of the AUCCTU Presidium. The plenum released Comrade Bogatikov from his duties as AUCCTU secretary and member of the AUCCTU Presidium in connection with his retirement on pension.

The plenum elected Comrade Klochkov as AUCCTU secretary and member of the AUCCTU Presidium. He previously worked as secretary of the Moscow Obkom. Comrade Yanayev, who worked previously as deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, has also been elected AUCCTU secretary and member of the AUCCTU Presidium.

TRADE WORKERS UNION ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

PM251456 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Dec 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Trade Union Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] A plenum of the State Trade and Consumer Cooperative Workers Union Central Committee has been held in Moscow.

The plenum examined organizational questions. O.F. Bogacheva was relieved of her duties as chairman of the Trade Union Central Committee in view of her retirement on pension.

G.N. Zamytskaya, who had previously worked as chief of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Trade and Consumer Services Section, was elected chairman of the Trade Union Central Committee.

V.P. Gusev, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Trade and Consumer Services Section, and AUCCTU Secretary V.P. Provotorov took part in the plenum.

ALIYEV, OTHERS SIGN THEATER DIRECTOR'S OBITUARY

PM301523 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 86 First Edition p 8

[Obituary of K.K. Ird]

[Excerpts] Soviet multinational culture has suffered a heavy loss. Kaarel Kirillovich Ird, outstanding director, member of the CPSU, Hero of Socialist Labor, People's Artist of the USSR, and USSR State Prize winner, is dead.

K.K. Ird was born in Riga in 1909. [passage omitted]

For over 40 years K.K. Ird headed the Estonian SSR's "Vanemuine" State Academic Theater, which became one of the country's leading theaters under his leadership. [passage omitted]

[Signed] G.A. Aliyev, Ye.K. Ligachev, A.N. Yakovlev, K.G. Vayno, A.F. Ryuytel, B.E. Saul, Yu.P. Voronov, V.G. Zakharov, A.N. Aksenov, G.P. Anisimov, I.K. Arkhipova, A.A. Belyayev, O.P. Bunder, M.A. Voytes, I.O. Gorbachev, Yu.N. Grigorovich, O.N. Yefremov, Ye.V. Zaytsev, G.A. Ivanov, E.A. Kapp, E.O. Kerge, E.E. Klas, T.Ya. Kuuzik, P.A. Kuusberg, K.Yu. Lavrov, I.A. Lott, I.A. Naumenko, E.K. Okas, B.A. Pokrovskiy, R.E. Ristlaan, N.I. Sats, Ye.F. Svetlanov, Yu.Kh. Temirkanov, G.A. Tovstogonov, I.Kh. Toome, M.A. Ulyanov, T.N. Khrennikov, M.I. Tsarev, I.G. Sharoyev, R.K. Shchedrin, G.G. Ernesaks, A.Ya. Eshpay, Yu.Ye. Yarovet

NEW HEAD OF CINEMATOGRAPHY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

LD281552 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Aleksandr Kamshalov chairman of the USSR State Committee for Cinematography.

A Russian by nationality and a party member since 1957, Kamshalov was born in 1932 and graduated the history department of Moscow University in 1954, after which he taught history at a secondary school and then worked as an YCL (Young Communist League) functionary.

Between 1962 and 1970 he was the YCL Central Committee's secretary for ideology and a member of the collegium of the USSR Ministry of Culture. From 1970 he was head of the cinematography section at the CPSU Central Committee's Culture Department.

Kamshalov is the author of several books dealing with culture and motion picture art.

Filipp Yermash has been relieved of the duties of chairman of the USSR State Committee for Cinematography in connection with his retirement on a pension.

YELTSIN MEETS WITH PARTY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

PM271531 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Dec 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Closer to Life and the Practice of Party Work"]

[Text] A 12 December meeting between B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, and professors and lecturers from the Moscow Higher Party School was devoted to the immediate tasks concerning the restructuring of the training of party and soviet cadres.

It was noted at the meeting that the stagnation, equanimity, and total isolation from the topical problems of reality and lively party work, which have been rooted for years in the school's practice, do not meet today's requirements. There is a lack of effective links with party committees and soviet organs in the city and the Moscow zone, and experience of party, soviet, and ideological work is not studied and generalized. The in-depth and creative explanation of practice is at times replaced by farfetched abstract schemes, petty examples, and secondhand information. The theoretical elaboration of new and acute problems is supplanted by attitudinizing and theorizing. [paragraph continues]

Students are inadequately involved in scientific research work and there is a shortage of topical research carried out at the Moscow Higher Party School. The school's Communists participate passively in the process of restructuring the city party organization's work. Serious shortcomings were noted in the training and further training of professors and lecturers. To overcome stagnation, not to wait for life to produce ready-made results, to study the facts, and to interpret them theoretically, making systematic use of the store of knowledge and accumulated practical conclusions -- this is what the city party organization requires today from the Moscow Higher Party School's potential.

It has to be noted that the school does have cadres who could head the work on its restructuring.

V.N. Shostakovskiy, new dean of the Moscow Higher Party School, was introduced to the school's professors and lecturers.

MOSCOW GORISPOLKOM DISCUSSES SPECULATION

PM281511 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Dec 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Moscow Gorispolkom"]

[Excerpts] At its 16 December session the Moscow Gorispolkom examined the question of the state of affairs in the struggle against speculation and other types of unearned income in the city of Moscow.

Reports were delivered by P.S. Bogdanov, chief of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Internal Affairs Administration; N.D. Ignatov, chief of the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Financial Administration; and V.N. Kudryavtsev, chairman of the Moscow City Soviet Permanent Commission on Socialist Legality and Maintenance of Public Order. [passage omitted]

B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, took part in the ispolkom session's work.

SHORTCOMINGS IN PETROLEUM REFINING NOTED

AU241228 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 19 Dec 86 p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Council of Ministers -- Intensifying Petroleum and Petroleum Products Refining, Paying More Attention to the Construction and Utilization of Gas Filling Stations"]

[Excerpts] The Ukrainian Council of Ministers Presidium has examined measures to intensify petroleum refining at the enterprises of the Ukrainian Main Administration of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry.

In recent years, a number of steps have been taken to increase the capacities for primary petroleum refining and for secondary processes. As a result of this, the republic's national economy has been better supplied with petroleum products, and the quality of these products has improved.

At the same time, the branch enterprises still have not made full use of the existing resources to improve the effectiveness of production. Facilities for the catalytic cracking of raw materials and for the production of petrobittumen do not work at full capacity, and this hampers the production of engine fuel, petrobittumen, and other petroleum refined products. [paragraph continues]

The reconstruction of existing technological facilities is progressing slowly, and so is the construction of new ones.

The Ukrainian Council of Ministers has obligated the Ukrainian Main Administration of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry to take for guidance the decisions of the 27th CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Congresses and to invigorate organizational work in order to more effectively utilize petroleum by intensifying its refinement, by making wider use of scientific and technological achievements in production, and by improving the quality of petroleum products. [passage omitted]

The unsatisfactory situation in the construction and utilization of bottled gas filling stations in the republic was examined.

The Ukrainian Ministries of Construction and of Installation and Special Construction Work have failed to complete construction and installation works on schedule and to pass stations for precommissioning adjustments. The Ukrainian Gas Industry Association is slow in supplying gas filling stations with equipment, locking and regulating appliances, cables and pipes, in performing precommissioning adjustments, as well as being unable to settle problems that have emerged in the process of construction in an operative way.

Kharkov, Ivano-Frankovsk, Zhitomir, Khmel'nitskiy, and Chernigov oblispolkoms do not exert adequate control over the construction and commissioning of stations.

There are serious shortcomings in the operation of the existing gas filling stations, stations do not operate at full capacity, and due order has not been introduced in the distribution of vehicles to carry gas cylinders and gas cylinder equipment sets.

The Ukrainian Council of Ministers has obligated Comrades V.P. Salo and V.Z. Borisovskiy, ministers; Comrade V.P. Maksimov, chief of the Ukrainian Gas Industry Association; and Comrades A.S. Maselskiy, V.A. Boychuck, V.M. Yamchinskiy, A.N. Popernyak, and M.V. Grishko to take all steps necessary to radically improve the organization of the construction of bottled gas filling stations for motor vehicles and to put them into operation without fail.

Ukrainian ministries, departments, and oblispolkoms have been instructed to take immediate steps to better use the existing fleet of bottled gas motor vehicles and the capacities of gas filling stations which operate or are being put into operation.

SHCHERBITSKIY MEETS RURAL PARTY OFFICIALS

AU291306 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 20 Dec 86 p 1

[RATAU report: "To More Vigorously Restructure the Organizational and Political Work of Party Committees"]

[Text] On 19 December V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, met a group of rural raykom first secretaries who were undergoing training in the Higher Party School under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

In a conversation it was noted that, in abiding by the directives of the 27th party congress, the CPSU Central Committee had taken persistent and consistent steps to restructure all spheres of public life. The economic mechanism is improving, a turn has been taken toward a radical settlement of social problems and toward the expansion of democracy in public life, openness is being consolidated, and the struggle against negative phenomena is being intensified.

As a result, the moral atmosphere in society has significantly improved, the activity of the working people has increased, and the pace of socioeconomic development has hastened. As far as the 1986 results are concerned, the republic will have met the average annual targets set under the 12th 5-year plan for the most important and, what is particularly valuable, qualitative indexes. At the same time, V.V. Shcherbitskiy emphasized, there are no grounds for placidity and complacency. The process of the restructuring is complex, and occasionally even difficult, both in the field and at the republic level. A significant number of enterprises fall short of the targets for the sales and contracted supplies of products, for raising labor productivity, for improving the quality of products, as well as for reducing production costs and material intensity. Slow use is still being made of economic levers to raise production effectiveness.

Particular attention was paid to further improving the leadership of the agro-industrial complex, and to organize the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee decision on the work performed by the Ukrainian SSR party, administrative, and economic organs to increase the output and procurements of grain in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress, and the decision adopted on this issue by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee plenum. It was also noted that party committees should keep under their constant control the tasks set for fulfilling social programs. These programs have to be amplified everywhere so that, by the end of the next 5-year period, the countryside may reach city standards in availability of comfortable dwellings, as well as social, cultural, and service facilities.

Questions concerning the restructuring of party work were topical in the conversation. It was noted that some party raykoms continued to substitute themselves for administrative and economic organs, to give commands, to bring forth many absolutely useless papers, and to require many references from the field.

Everyone has to realize once and forever, V.V. Shcherbitskiy noted, that it is impossible to accomplish the new tasks by old and obsolete methods. It is essential at all levels to increase responsibility, to enhance initiative, and to strengthen executive discipline. Party committees are expected always to keep cadre work in the center of their attention; such work is the key to the settlement of all problems. Today it is particularly important to break free from the captivity of routine, to define the main sectors, to distribute forces in the right way, and to give room to enterprising and energetic people who think and act boldly and in a nonstandard manner. After all, in the final account the success of all plans depends on the way basic party organizations perform.

At the meeting, particular emphasis was put on the responsibility borne by party raykoms and their first secretaries for the pursuit of party policy in the field. In their work, party committees have to be more purposeful, businesslike, able to conclude whatever they have initiated, more adherent to principles in cadre policy, and more responsible for accomplishing the adopted decisions. It is important to promote criticism and self-criticism, to consolidate collectivism and openness everywhere, to tighten links with the masses, and to intensify the people's political, class, and internationalist education. Particular attention was called to the need to encourage rayon papers to publish interesting, including critical, materials, and to create everywhere conditions favoring the creative work of journalists.

The floor at the meeting was taken by N.I. Chepurnoy, Cherkassiy Raykom first secretary in Cherkassy Oblast; U.N. Mostipan, Rokitnyanskiy Raykom first secretary in Kiev Oblast; and V. Ye. Streltsov, Verkhnedneprovskiy Raykom first secretary in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast.

Comrade V.V. Shcherbitskiy inspected the new classroom block of the Higher Party School under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, and familiarized himself with the learning and living conditions provided for the students.

SHCHERBITSKIY ADDRESSES PARTY, ECONOMIC AKTIV

LD262241 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] A meeting of the party and economic aktiv and leading cadres of the republican bodies of Kiev and Kiev Oblast was held in Kiev today. In the report of Kachura, secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian party, and in speeches, it was noted that in the national economy of the republic a set of measures are being introduced to improve industrial safety and safety equipment.

At the same time, it was noted that in the national economy of the republic a set of measures are being introduced to improve industrial safety and safety equipment.

At the same time, it was noted at the meeting, in a number of industries there is still not a high level of safety. First and foremost, this concerns basic industries, the agro-industrial complex, capital construction, and transport. It was emphasized that as a result of irresponsibility, lack of discipline, and sometimes criminal negligence on the part of individual worker managers, an accident occurred at Chernobyl AES, the ferry "Admiral Nakhimov" crashed with a cargo merchant vessel, passenger trains crashed at Koristovka station, and there were a number of road accidents involving transport.

In the resolution adopted, the party committees and front ranking party organizations are recommended to decisively improve organizational and political work in labor collectives, in order to prevent industrial injuries and accidents. Comrade Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, made a speech at the meeting.

FURTHER ON PERM OBKOM DISCUSSION OF SHORTCOMINGS

PM301441 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 86 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent S. Ryabov report: "To Overcome the Force of Inertia. From the Perm CPSU Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] Perm -- What must be done to accelerate the pace of socioeconomic development in the West Urals? Which are the effective methods of work that party organizations should use, and which are to be abandoned? That was the subject of discussion at a Perm party Obkom plenum which examined the tasks of Communists in the Kama River region in the light of the CPSU Central Committee resolution on that body's report.

The discussion showed that the party obkom must radically change its style and method of work and face up to the problems which have slowed matters down for a long time now. Both the reports by Obkom First Secretary B. Konoplev and the speeches made by participants in the plenum cited more than enough facts to confirm this conclusion.

Let us take the economy as example. The Kama River region has a vast production potential which is increasing yearly. The value of fixed capital in industry alone today stands at almost R13 billion. But how efficiently is it utilized? The return on capital has been diminishing for more than 10 years, declining by 27 percent over this period. A recent inspection showed that the utilization of half of new and reconstructed projects during the last two 5-year plan periods has been below the planned levels.

The reasons? Primarily equipment standing idle and an inadequate workload for capacities. For example, one-fourth of all the oblast's enterprises operate only one shift. Even in machine building -- the region's key sector -- the shift index of automatic lines, machine tools, and assembly lines stands at 1.43, while one-third of the entire metal processing machinery pool is altogether inactive.

But why is it that industry, instead of accelerating, is often idling? It is remarkable: Everyone who mounted the plenum rostrum and spoke about restructuring inevitably identified this word with unity of words and deeds by party, soviet, and economic leaders. This unity is indeed in short supply.

Nor is it possible to justify the extremely slow pace of development in the economy's agrarian sector. In the last 5 years alone the state has supplied more than R2 billion of capital investment funds and appreciable quantities of material and technical resources, but output production volumes on most farms have simply failed to increase.

"Our agro-industrial committee headed by B. Levin approaches its work very timidly and cautiously," A. Bogdanov, chairman of Ilinskiy Rayon's V.I. Lenin Kolkhoz, said at the plenum. "We still have not sensed that the committee is a genuine steward [khozyain]. And party Obkom Secretary G. Laptev and officials from the section responsible for this sector evade the solution of long-term questions."

There is perhaps nothing else that reflects the standard of party and soviet organs' work as fully as their attitude toward the problems of housing and cultural, consumer, and municipal services for the population.

Could it be that there are no resources to solve these urgent questions? the speakers asked. And immediately replied: There are! The only thing that is lacking is a desire by those who head the sectors in question to create normal conditions for people's everyday life, leisure, and other requirements. And for some reason or other both the party obkom and the oblispolkom are totally reluctant to take officials properly to task.

L. Yesyunin, turner at the "Mashinostroitelnyy Zavod Imeni F.E. Dzerzhinskogo" Production Association, said:

"The wind of change still has not reached our leaders. Lubricating and cooling fluid still freezes on machine tools, just as it did 5 years ago. As for competition? Our shop's collective recently refused to sign the 1987 pledges for the production of molds in excess of plan. We are not at all opposed to additional output, of course. But after all, this does not require the some preparatory work and thorough preparation at all work positions."

The worker correctly spotted the "Achilles' heel" of those Communist leaders who are verbally ardent champions of everything that is advanced and deem it important to shake an innovator's hand for everyone to see in recognition of an idea but are the first to run for cover when matters come to specific actions.

The success of restructuring, the speakers noted, will be determined to a decisive extent by the speed with which we manage to shift the center of gravity of all work to the labor collectives and primary party organizations. It is there, at the front line, that the struggle to achieve the main objectives is being waged.

Much in this respect also depends on an active stance on the part of the obkom and its Party Organizational Work Section. It is high time to start assessing various primary party organizations not according to their reports or the promptness with which they convene meetings or pay membership dues (these are elementary requirements of the CPSU Statutes), but in terms of their prestige in the collective, their militancy, and their quest for and utilization of efficient forms and methods of work.

Everyone who spoke deemed it his duty to analyze various aspects of the party obkom apparatus' activity. Summing up these statements, it can be concluded that the obkom, its bureau, and its secretariat have simply failed to create a united front in the struggle for acceleration in all sections, that people here prefer, as in the past, to offer explanations for the numerous shortcomings and failures rather than to seek ways to eliminate them. Lack of initiative and fear of shouldering responsibility for the solution of fundamental questions -- these are highly typical of officials at the oblast party organization's top organ.

Let me cite just one example. Some 2 months after the departure of the commission which had been preparing material for the Central Committee, I called at one of the obkom's sectorial sections.

"What are we working on?", the deputy chief repeated by question and, sinking back into his armchair, muttered lazily: "We're resting for the time being. After all, no reports have been filed with the Central Committee yet. Time enough for the bosses to come back and set us tasks -- then we'll get down to it."

Just like a kindergarten group! The playgroup leader is putting on her coat, and she'll take us for a walk by the hand. We dare not take a single step without her. As if people in the section were not familiar with the 27th congress materials or CPSU Central Committee plenum resolutions, as if they were incapable of identifying and tackling the "bottlenecks" in their assigned section without prompting by their "superiors." What else but a red-tape, bureaucratic style of work by the apparatus can explain the fact that people here are insufficiently familiar with the operational situation at local level and that the activity of many party gorkoms and raykoms is given a clearly exaggerated assessment?

As a matter of fact, though, who are these section chiefs and inspectors to emulate in taking a critical approach to all sorts of negative phenomena? Follow the example of bureau members and secretaries? But they also go no further than castigating shortcomings in their reports and, furthermore, it is always the same party committees that are the targets of their verbal barrage. As for real assistance, effectively monitoring the fulfillment of adopted decisions, and rigorously taking to task those guilty of wrecking the work, people here -- as a rule -- have not time for that.

Let us ponder the following figures. More than 6,000 lecturers are read on atheistic topics in the oblast each year, and yet there has been no decline in religious rituals. There are 55,000 moral mentors in the oblast today, but the number of adolescents on the militia's files is already approaching 10,000. Communists in the Kama River region are united within 3,417 primary party organizations and 7,634 party groups, but nonetheless the curve of production discipline violations is declining extremely slowly.

The CPSU obkom, the plenum noted, and primarily Ideology Secretary V. Kotov and the Propaganda and Agitation Section headed by L. Pinayev, were found unprepared to meet the new demands made by the 27th party congress and by life itself.

Party committees still operate basically through their leadership structure and limited aktiv and do not reach the rank and file Communists and labor collectives. The mass news media offer them inadequate assistance in this. The press, radio, and television have not properly joined in the process of restructuring. The Kama River region's oblast press and many city and rayon newspapers have yet to offer working people a platform from which they can openly and loudly criticize the phenomena of stagnation, express their attitude toward instances of social injustice, and share their views on what it is that obstructs their own collective's efficient work. After all, now there are no "forbidden zones" for journalists.

The trade unions and the Komsomol often play the part of onlookers. Who else if not these organizations should tackle the development of mass physical culture and sports in the oblast? But what is actually happening? The number of stadiums and sports areas today has actually fallen compared with 1975. The reconstruction of Perm's "Molot" Hockey Stadium has been going on for several years now, and the end is still not in sight. It is a shame to admit it, but this year a city with 1 million inhabitants could not cope with running two volleyball courts at the young pioneers' stadium! And all this with the full knowledge of the party gorkom, its First Secretary V. Surkin, the Komsomol obkom, and the oblast trade union council....

More than 40 leaders from the obkom staff have been relieved of their duties in the last 18 months. "Failed to organize work," "Failed to live up to the collective's trust," "dismissed for abuses and moral unscrupulousness...."

It was said at the plenum that the serious errors in work with cadres can be largely attributed to the fact that the obkom and the gorkoms and raykoms give inadequate attention to the promotion pool. This is particularly valid in the countryside: Some 80 percent of farm leaders have been replaced within 5 years and, furthermore, 130 persons were relieved of their duties for having failed to cope with the work assigned to them or for having compromised themselves.

But how is the cadre process managed by obkom sections -- the Agriculture and Food Industry Section and the Party Organizational Work Section? People here are very slow in getting used to democratic principles in the selection of leaders -- appointment by election, the system of competition to fill vacancies, certification, and regular accountability to the relevant collectives. The speakers noted that these effective forms of work with cadres must be used much more widely and frequently.

And so the plenum revealed that the oblast has enormous potential for successfully resolving both current and long-term socioeconomic tasks. To activate these reserves and achieve precise and stable work along all avenues -- this must be the fitting response by Communists and all working people in the Kama River region to the CPSU Central Committee resolution.

G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the plenum's work and addressed it.

PRAVDA STRESSES NEED FOR 'FRESH FORCES' IN PARTY

PM251325 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The Party Committee Worker"]

[Text] Letters to the editorial office contain many expressions of gratitude to party workers. They have helped one person obtain justice, they have encouraged and supported another at a difficult moment, they have trusted yet another to head a labor collective. For instance, Leningrad workers V. Irvin and N. Bessarabov sent the following cable: "Thank you, thanks to the newspaper we have learned how the leaders of major party organizations live and work. We can see that they have a reliable compass, namely the Leninist style. May they always and in everything be faithful to Ilich's behests!" And some readers, for instance, L. Zabelina from Yessentukov in Stavropol Kray, V. Ivanov from the city of Zhukovka in Bryansk Oblast, Yu. Litvinov from Irkutsk, and others ask the editorial office: "Please tell people about our first secretary. He is competent, strict, helpful, modest, and selfless."

To be a party committee worker... It is a high honor and great responsibility. The scale and novelty of the tasks make exceptionally high demands on their political and organizational activity. Resolving new tasks, they are called upon to restructure their own methods first of all and to restructure other people's. The personnel of Lipesk and Rostov Obkoms, Moscow and Leningrad Gorkoms, Timskiy Raykom in Kursk Oblast, and many other party committees are showing themselves to be vigorous and energetic in establishing the new style. They skillfully and creatively seek imaginative solutions and forms and methods of leadership. And this new approach is beginning to manifest itself in deeds.

However, not everyone is resolutely getting rid of the fetters of inertia. For instance, Perm Obkom, a CPSU Central Committee resolution notes, is continuing to display a mania for sessions and conferences. The obkom has been unable to create a united front of struggle for acceleration in all sectors of work and does little to ensure that the 27th congress' instructions and the open revelation of shortcomings are really asserted in every party committee and every primary party organization. The Voronezh Obkom is also slow to improve its style and methods of work. Instead of restructuring, there are general slogans and declarations. There is a superficial approach, administration by decree, supplanting and petty tutelage of oblast and rayon agro-industrial organs, and a reluctance to switch to genuinely scientific management methods. The party Central Committee deemed the obkom's organizational work to increase a production and purchases of livestock products in the present winter period to be unsatisfactory. Obkom First Secretary V. Ignatov has been strictly censured.

"You live and learn" -- that formula is also applicable to party workers. In order to keep your finger on the pulse of life and identify new developments in a timely way, it is necessary to increase your store of knowledge and master modern methods of party leadership. There are various forms of study. On-the-job training in republic Communist Party central committee and obkaom sections, reports at bureau sessions and plenums, trips to find out about advanced experience, membership of comprehensive teams sent out into the rayons. Discussions between experienced apparatus staffers and young ones also have much to offer. The important point is to avoid formalism here and the notorious "tick" indicating completion of a measure.

The party regards the scope and depth of the people's creativity as the decisive force in acceleration.

It is the vital duty of party committee personnel to value and support people with an innovative spirit, to provide scope for bold action, and to prevent their initiative, fruitful thinking, and inspiration from drowning in a morass of indifference and vanishing in a maze of bureaucracy. Unfortunately, even today some creative, questing working people find themselves in the position of outcasts, not masters of their enterprises. There are instances of suppression of criticism and reprisals over it. Such cases must everywhere meet with a principled party assessment.

Work with cadres and the education of people constitute the essence of party work. It is the main task of those to whom the lot of conducting professional work in the party has befallen to find, identify, and raise talented organizers. Lenin's appeal is topical even nowadays: "...It is only necessary to recruit young people more widely and more boldly, more boldly and more widely, yet more widely and yet more boldly, without fearing them." It is a matter of promoting more young people to leading economic posts and reinforcing party committees with fresh forces. The cream of the cream, people capable of organizing labor in the new way, must go there.

Anyone entrusted with working on a party committee must possess many qualities. The most important ones include the ability to attract people, approachability, and unity of word and deed. Only by living in the midst of the masses will he be able to win their trust and lasting authority. However, certain party workers are still unreachable by visitors, especially people with a sharp view on life, so-called "awkward customers." There must be more frank, direct, and honest discussion of the most acute issues. But in some places officials still prefer "platform" contact with people. Certain leaders, when they are planning a meeting at a collective, demand that notes be submitted in advance -- they are afraid of "tricky" questions. This practice cannot be tolerated today.

The party committee worker and his actions are always in the public eye. That is why the whole essence of his life must be a model of communist morality and ideological purity. As the 27th CPSU Congress noted, people link with him all the pluses and minuses of the specific, real life that they live. The ordinary working person judges the party committee and the party as a whole on the basis of the raykom, gorkom, or obkom secretary. It is necessary to resolutely get rid of those who do not value Communists' trust and have sullied the honest and pure image of the party member, as a recent Tashauz Turkmen Communist Party Obkom Plenum did by expelling from the party and relieving of his duties Obkom Secretary U. Shamuratov for fawning, suppressing criticism, and conniving at violators of party and state discipline.

Answering the PRAVDA questionnaire "The Time and Cadres," readers describe instances of immodesty on the part of certain party workers. One suffers from "villa fever," another allows the local press to feature his photograph virtually every day and to report that the first secretary has cut the ribbon at a construction project, visited a plant, the oblast philharmonic, a school... As though this were not his ordinary working day but some kind of important event.

The authority of the party committee worker is an invaluable asset. Respect is gained through labor and life stance, not handed out with office. The obkom, gorkom, or raykom secretary, section chief, and instructor should always remember that. The good name and high prestige of the party member certainly work in favor of restructuring and accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

STATE QUALITY INSPECTORATES TO START 1 JAN

LD240945 Moscow TASS in English 0926 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Moscow December 24 TASS -- Soviet industry is on the threshold of a major innovation: State quality inspectorates will be introduced at major enterprises on January 1, 1987. This means that the quality of output will now be rated not by in-house inspectors but by officials who will be independent of industry.

Quality is one of the more pointed economic problems. Emphasis has to be laid on quantity rather than quality after the Second World War, when the country lacked many products, from machine-tools to clothes. Yet at some point emphasis had to be shifted onto quality -- and that point was missed.

The ill effects are obvious both in heavy industry and in consumer goods production. During the first nine months of this year, for instance, retailers had complaints about the quality of 500,000 T.V. sets.

The press has identified many causes of a high share of defective output. These include poor production standards, large tolerances and outdated equipment. Another negative factor undoubtedly was that the wages of industry's quality inspectors depended on the gross output rather than on its quality.

The idea of state quality inspectorates originated in 1985, and such bodies were experimentally introduced at 19 enterprises in the country, those which were considered front-ranking. Yet even at those enterprises the newly established bodies began by turning back for upgrading up to 90 per cent of the output approved by in-house inspectors.

In a few months, however, things began to look up. During the first year of the experiment about 75 million roubles were saved through reduction in defective output (one rouble equals roughly 1.3 U.S. dollar).

The innovation will now be drastically expanded: In January quality inspectorates will be set up at 1,500 plants, primarily in engineering. Preparations began to be made last October, when 20 per cent of output began to be presented to inspectorates. The figure was raised to 30 per cent in November and to 70 in December. Now the "dress rehearsal" is over. Newspapers report that some plants have decided not to wait till January and already begun to present 100 percent of output to state quality inspectorates.

No one thinks, of course, that after January 1 things will go smoothly. Speaking on Central Television recently, Georgiy Kolmogorov, chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Standards (which is responsible for state quality inspection), warned against undue optimism. Preparations for the transition have run into difficulties in some places. Some plants can be expected to land in financial difficulties as a result. But there is no road back.

BAD WEATHER HAMPERS OPERATIONS OF RAILROADS

LD292319 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Dec 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A difficult situation has arisen on the country's railroads in connection with the weather conditions. Commentator Aleksandr Tikhomirov speaks:

[Tikhomirov] Hello comrades. On 24 December, the day the country's railroad workers completed the annual plan for deliveries ahead of schedule and surpassed an unprecedented target -- 4 billion metric tons of freight in 1 year -- our film team was present at a hook-up conference of the Ministry of Railways. You possibly remember that report. In a short summing-up of the year's results, the minister on that occasion emphasized in particular that the railways were working in unison with the whole national economy.

Six days later reports are coming in from various regions that the railways have started to lose their rhythm. The reason is heavy snowfalls in the Ukraine, North Caucasus and the Volga valley, and heavy frosts in the Urals and Siberia. The schedule for railroad traffic is now being fulfilled by only 75 percent. On 27 and 28 December, it is reported, 15,000 railcars remained unloaded. In the ports of Ventspils and Klaipeda, 2,600 fuel tanks are standing idle, waiting to be unloaded, and 2,500 in Tuapse. The accumulated freight is freezing up, and with the present cold spell it will be even more difficult to unload if from the wagons in a few days' time. Unloading of railcars which have arrived at enterprises of the State Agro-Industrial Committee; the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, and the Ministry of Power and Electrification is going especially badly.

Today we got in touch with a number of enterprises of these ministries and the answer was this: It's winter, you understand. As if it was not known that a cold spell, that snowfalls come after a hot summer and after the fall. After all, so much has been said, too, about the necessity for excellent [corrects himself] that is necessary and essential to make preparations for the winter. Special decisions have been adopted by both the party Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers. There have been so many assurances and reports that they are ready. Well, the first check has shown that no, people are not ready everywhere. This is what the experience of these few days demonstrates. As before, the link-up of the railways of the Ministry of Railways with the spur tracks of the enterprise of other ministers is a weak point. Once again, there are interdepartmental barriers. And the result is a vicious circle. For example, the Orsk-Khalilovo Metallurgical Combine has unloaded in these days only 484 of 1,051 railcars which have arrived at the combine. So it is itself losing the rhythm of delivering raw material for its shops.

And the second thing the experience has demonstrated is that in those places where preparations were made in advance there are no shortcomings -- on the Belorussian railroad, for example. I should recall that during a widespread experiment last year, over 12,000 people were released on that railroad for work in other industries of the national economy. And there everything is in order with the unloading of railcars and the movement of trains. That is, they are working with fewer people, and obviously all this is going on now because a favorable situation has arisen for them; they do not have to rely on anyone, they know that labor systems involving everybody will not help matters -- they do not have a surplus of people. So they prepared the equipment, drew up the schedules, and assigned each meter of the railroad in the collectives in advance.

And here is another thing the experience shows; in places where comprehensive methods for unloading work have been introduced, for example, the port railways in Leningrad -- much has been said for a long time about that experiment -- there are no bottlenecks. Winter is not terrible there.

We [word indistinct] Will return to coverage of these problems in the Vremya program. Today, too, our correspondent in Voronezh had already prepared a report at the (Likhaya) station about the struggle with snowdrifts on the railways, but unfortunately that report did not reach the Vremya program in time; we will show it tomorrow. We will return to this problem, we will talk about people.

Here is a figure at the end of the commentary: It is eloquent of the rhythm of the growing struggle, as it were, against the snowdrifts, and of the control over the situation on the railways. On 27 December, 40,000 people worked to clear the railways from snow, and on the 28th it was already 60,000.

MOSCOW TV COMMENTS ON WINTER, RAIL TRAFFIC JAMS

LD302359 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Dec 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast; talk by Political Observer Viktor Beketov]

[Text] Hello comrades! Representatives of various professions react differently to weather reports. So, farmers will be pleased at an abundance of snow in the fields, as a portent of a good harvest; on the other hand, transport workers -- railwaymen, truck drivers, airmen -- display alarm and unease. Snowdrifts and ice on the roads and landing strips wreck schedules, disrupt the rhythm of supplies, and create problems at enterprises and building sites. The situation has become particularly complex in the last days of the old year. It is as if winter is making up for the lack of snow this basically warm December, and has revealed its nature. The first serious frosts and snowstorms have caused confusion for certain managers.

It turns out that station and approach roads were not cleared in time, and winter shelters and freight had frozen up in a number of places. As a result, a large number of freight cars were not unloaded in the times allotted. Here are the latest data:

Accumulated on the country's railways are 29,000 unloaded freight cars. Among the ministries whose enterprises are holding up this unloading are the traditional leaders: the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Ministry of Power and Electrification, and the Ministry of Coal Industry of the USSR, who have recently been joined by the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee. Of the republics, the most freight cars were accumulated in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Georgia, in the Maritime and Altay Krays, and in Perm and Ryazan Oblasts. There is a difficult struggle going on with snowdrifts on the Volga railways, on the express routes in Siberia, and in the Urals.

At the same time there are examples of reliable, consistent work, of the kind being displayed by the collectives of the East Siberian and Krasnoyarsk railways. Exemplars of a creative and economical approach to the problem are being shown by the Belorussian railway workers.

This concerns the railways ministry, but railway engineers cannot do without the help of truck drivers. Freight must be taken at once to the railway stations, otherwise traffic jams build up. Such scenes can be seen in particular in Moscow, Rostov, and other cities. In order to avoid this, precise work is needed all the way down the chain. To put it another way, what we need is a conveyor belt which is well coordinated and works without interruption.

It is not out of place to remind you of these common home truths today, in the run up to the New Year festivities. The situation brooks no reduction of work rates, nor slacking, even on festive days: In fact, on festive nights too, might I add, since the freight throughput needed for the life-support system of the national economy must be unbroken round the clock.

The words "fickle elements" and "unforeseen circumstances" will arise now and again in reports, but it is somehow forgotten in all this that already one-third of the winter gas has been used, and the middle part of winter still lies ahead -- the frosts and blizzards of January. Thus there is no need to be in a hurry to use up the arsenal of excuses.

The main thing is to sort out the matter ahead of time, foresee the situation tomorrow, take the necessary measures beforehand, and not to forget the lessons of past winters. They have taught us this much -- that it is criminal to fail to learn truths even if they are truisms.

PRAVDA VIEWS POWER INDUSTRY'S 1986 PERFORMANCE

PM301851 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 86 First Edition p 1

[V. Pavlov article under the rubric: "Today Is Power Worker's Day": "Sources of Light and Heat"]

[Text] The plans for heat and electricity generation will be overfulfilled this year. Some 1,600 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity will be generated, which is above target. Hard, tireless labor lies behind this figure. It is perhaps impossible to recall in recent times such a serious situation as that which obtained in the power industry this year.

The sector and all of its economy was taught a severe lesson by the accident at the Chernobyl AES. The country suffered large losses in material and morale. The Chernobyl misfortune revealed serious shortcomings in the work of servicing personnel and scientific research and planning and design organizations. It brutally reminded people of the need for unremitting attention to be paid to safety at all power facilities and above all at AES's. The whole country came to the sector workers' aid. And enormous amount of work which was unique in character has been carried out to clear up the aftereffects of the accident.

The temporary loss of the Chernobyl AES and the low water levels in a number of regions did not prevent sector workers from meeting the national economy's power and thermal needs.

An experiment to boost power workers' economic incentives for increasing the efficiency of TETS's has proven its worth. It has helped to substantially increase their output and to make up losses.

At present the sector is still lagging behind the targets set in the Power Program. The capacities of the Ekibastuz and Kansk-Achinsk thermal power complexes and of the Far East region are not growing rapidly enough. The task of developing electricity networks is being carried out too slowly. If the leeway is to be made up the achievements of science and technology must be introduced and the rate of construction increased.

The working rhythm of the whole of the national economy depends on the power workers. It is a great responsibility. Most collectives are justifying that trust. True masters of their trade and enthusiasts for technical progress are working at the Mary, Central Urals, and combined Surgut GRES's. Fine results have been achieved by the collectives of the Kuzbass, Lithuanian, Magadan, and Tajik power systems. The Kursk AES collective obtained the rated capacity of the fourth power unit ahead of schedule.

Power workers have quite a few problems, but they have repeatedly shown that they are up to the most difficult tasks. I think they will succeed in proving that in the future too.

KAZAKHSTAN WORKERS FULFILL SALES PLEDGES

LD241742 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Workers in Kazakhstan's agro-industrial complex, implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, have fulfilled socialist pledges for the first year of the 5-year plan for sale to the state of stockbreeding produce. More than 1.5 tonnes of livestock and poultry, 2.8 tonnes of milk, 2,300 million eggs and 57,000 tonnes of wool has been despatched to procurement points. Sales of produce to the state continue. The results achieved have been possible thanks to the adoption of extra measures in the republic to eliminate shortcomings and omissions which were noted in the CPSU Central Committee resolution on the work of party, soviet and economic bodies of the Kazakh SSR in implementing the tasks of the food program, guaranteeing accelerated and reliable development of livestock breeding, strengthening of the fodder base, improvement of work to introduce progressive working methods and intensive technologies, utilization of the experience of front-rankers, and invigoration of socialist competition among stockfarm workers. The republic's party, soviet and economic bodies are mobilizing labor collectives for organized over-wintering of cattle, for utilization of all reserves and opportunities to enhance productivity and efficiency of livestock breeding, and for unconditional fulfilment of the tasks of the second year of the 5-year plan.

SESSION OF VASKHNIL SIBERIAN DEPARTMENT HELD

PM291515 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 Dec 86 p 1

[TASS correspondent report: "To Be Introduced Throughout Siberia"]

[Excerpts] Krasnoobsk, Novosibirsk Oblast, 19 Dec -- Only an exact scientific calculation and an awareness of prospects can act as a reliable compass to the farmer when choosing a strategy of action in Siberia's vast grainfields, which have been assigned an important role by the country's Food Program. This is where a major detachment of agricultural scientists -- the Siberian Department of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences [VASKHNIL], which is called on to develop and introduce the scientific foundations of agriculture over the vast region -- is at work. The main trends of the research conducted by it and the practical assimilation of its developments were the focus of attention at a session of the VASKHNIL Presidium held today in the scientific city of Krasnoobsk.

VASKHNIL President A.A. Nikonov opened the session. P.L. Goncharov, chairman of the Siberian Department's Presidium gave a report on progress in implementing the CPSU Central Committee Resolution "On the Work of VASKHNIL's Siberian Department To Fulfill the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers Resolutions on Increasing the Production of High-Grade Spring Wheat Grain Through the Intensification of its Cultivation". [passage omitted]

I.I. Skiba, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Section, and Ye.I. Sizenko, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, took part in the session.

RAZUMOVSKIY ADDRESSES NEW VETERANS ORGANIZATION

PM191245 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 86 Second Edition pp 1-2

[TASS report: "Devoting the Soul's Inspiration and the Heart's Energy to the Motherland: Constituent Conference of the All-Union War and Labor Veterans Organization"]

[Excerpts] War and labor veterans... The Soviet people feel immense respect for and gratitude to these people. Their bright biographies are our motherland's living history, its honor and glory. But veterans never grow old in their souls. They are even today, in the midst of our active society, at the forefront of reorganization -- at the machine tool and in the field, in the lecture hall and the design bureau, in all sectors of communist building.

The veterans' revolutionary, combat, and labor potential are inexhaustible and are a reliable source of new ideas and achievements. Representatives of the older generations see it as their duty to devote all their knowledge and their tremendous experience still more energetically and fully to the party and the people.

The constituent conference of the All-Union War and Labor Veterans Organization [AUWLVO] was held in the Hall of Columns in the House of the Unions 17 December.

Those present warmly applauded the CPSU Central Committee greetings message to the participants in the AUWLVO constituent conference, which was read out by G.P. Razumovskiy, chairman of the Organizing Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He delivered a report on the tasks of the AUWLVO and the main directions of its activity.

Our conference, the speaker said, is being held at a truly historic time -- a time of a steep turn in the development of Soviet society which was begun and is being directed by the party in accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th party congress. Restructuring is taking place in the country in all spheres of social life -- political, economic, ideological, and spiritual. Work on implementing the congress' strategic guidelines is confidently gathering momentum and acquiring ever greater scope and depth.

Striving for profound and qualitative changes in the development of society, the party consistently and persistently pursues a policy of further democratizing it and creating an atmosphere in which every person feels he is master of the country and profoundly responsible for the common cause. The creation of the AUWLVO is a constituent part of the major measures to enrich the forms of socialist democracy provided for by the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. This is a new manifestation of the constant concern of the party and the state for the older generations of Soviet people.

In our country, war and labor veterans enjoy deserved prestige and are surrounded by nationwide respect. Meetings with veterans in party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs have become a regular occurrence. Everyone remembers Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's cordial meetings at the CPSU Central Committee with front-line soldiers on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the great victory and with veterans of the Stakhanovite movement and production front-runners and innovators. There is profound meaning in the fact that this veterans organization is coming into being at a time of direct preparation for a glorious jubilee -- the 70th anniversary of Great October. For all the successes on the path of socialist building, of which we are rightly proud, are connected with the deeds of generations of Soviet people. Veterans are still in commission today.

Both the path traveled and the horizons that are opening up can best be seen from the height of life's experience. And this is a truly unique experience, which has enriched all mankind in the building of a new life. Compressed within it are the heroic achievements and the selfless labor of many generations of Soviet people -- those who stormed the Winter Palace and fought on the Civil War fronts, who raised the country from ruin and laid the foundations of socialism, who routed the enemy and worked valiantly during the Great Patriotic War years.

Veterans are now receiving into their ranks representatives of a generation molded during the years of Soviet power. They are those who, during the postwar period, rebuilt the country from the ruins, conquered the virgin lands and space, and vigilantly stood guard over peaceful creative labor. The Soviet people's unfading revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions are passed on like a baton from generation to generation. They form a living link between the past, the present, and the future. And this link will be more reliable and stronger if the experience, the knowledge, the will, and the entire spiritual potential of people of the older generations serve our common cause still more actively.

The veterans movement is becoming an increasingly influential force in Soviet society. An urgent need is arising to inject more topicality into the existing forms of veterans' participation in the economic and sociopolitical life of society -- forms which are proven in practice -- and also to introduce new ones. The new all-union organization is to serve these ends. Its formation is intended to complete, as it were, the organizational processes taking place in the veterans movement and, at the same time, to open up new prospects for this movement.

The chief tasks of the AUWLVO are formulated in the Central Committee's Political Report to the party congress. Involving people with tremendous experience of life in sociopolitical affairs and, above all, in educating the rising generations is placed at the forefront. The veterans organization must further promote in every possible way the development of social principles in various spheres of social and public activity. This is an important direction of the practical implementation of socialist people's power.

The overwhelming majority of veterans are restless people, sensitive to social needs and uncompromising toward shortcomings. Some people, particularly those who do not want to burden themselves with cares, dislike their pointed principledness and untiring determination. It is not such a rare thing to see a veteran come along with his sensible suggestions, opinions, or critical observations only to find people unwilling even to hear him out. This is nothing but an attempt to exclude from the restructuring process people with an active life stance. The veterans organization must break the ice of indifference toward veterans' sensible suggestions and opinions and seek to ensure that people of the older generation receive necessary support. The assistance of party organizations can always be relied on in these matters.

We should also think about better involving the veteran public with working people's letters, complaints, and statements and in generalizing people's opinions and suggestions on various questions. Many state and public organs and newspaper editorial offices have public reception rooms which are good at helping to resolve questions which arise locally. It is necessary to make wider use of this practice and involve experienced people, of whom there are many among veterans, in reception-room work.

The speaker emphasized that the participation of war and labor veterans in the military-patriotic and labor education of young people and in their ideological and moral tempering is the chief civic duty of people from the older generations today. We are rightly proud of our rising generation. [paragraph continues]

Soviet young people are successfully resolving major national economic tasks, constructing new cities, opening up the riches of Siberia, the Far East, and the Far North, and doing military service. At the same time, we cannot fail to be alarmed that, in the consciousness of certain young men and women, the cult of petit-bourgeois pragmatism and a consumer attitude to life sometimes eclipse the desire for spiritual enrichment and revolutionary romanticism. We frequently encounter manifestations of political naivete, carelessness, and complacency, and drunkenness and drug use among young people. A resolute struggle must be waged against such negative phenomena. And here the party counts on the assistance of veterans: Their sensitivity and human involvement in young destinies are of great significance in educating young people.

In addition to positive experience in work with young people, a considerable degree of formalism and overorganization has appeared in recent years. There is an obvious need to link the education of young men and women more closely with life, with the specific preparation of young people for productive labor and the motherland's defense. The AUWLVO is to help raise this work to a qualitatively new level. And, of course, it is important to conduct all work with young people in close contact with the Komsomol and with all state and public organizations involved in this great work.

The acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development is the primary aim of the party and the state, the all-embracing task of our society, the cause of each and every citizen, the speaker continued. This is undoubtedly a tremendous patriotic cause for all veterans too, to which they can make a considerable contribution.

The lowest pension age has been established in our country, and millions of people retain not only an enviable capacity for work but also the desire to work after they have passed that age. Good prospects have been opened up for veterans' labor activity in very diverse spheres -- in industry and construction, in transportation and the services sphere, in production of consumer goods and agricultural products, and in others. The scale and forms of veterans' participation in social production expand with every passing year. Some 12 million people who receive a pension are continuing to work now. The majority of them stay in their own collectives, where their high qualifications and rich professional experience have rightly won them deserved prestige.

I could name many labor collectives where there is well organized work on getting veterans to stay in production and where veterans are not just an additional work reserve but living vectors of professional skill and worker traditions. Veterans councils help in creating a favorable work regime for them, endeavor to select work for them in accordance with their wishes and abilities, and widely involve them in the leadership of schools of progressive experience, the training of novices, and mentorship.

Unfortunately, this approach has not been observed everywhere. The number of working pensioners would increase significantly if leaders of enterprises, cadre services, and trade union committees made full use of the potential of existing legislation and took a more flexible and considered approach to organizing their labor, responding to elderly people's wishes and potential.

There has recently been an increase in the number of pensioners involved in agricultural labor. Many kolkhozes and sovkhoses pay them a supplement to their pension at the farms' expense; the potential of elderly people is taken into account in organizing work, and in individual cases, links and teams of elderly people are set up. The speaker drew attention to the importance of veterans' labor on private plots and garden plots.

The country has a growing number of special shops and sections in conventional enterprises and also specialized enterprises where the necessary conditions are created for persons with reduced fitness for work. The home form of labor organization is becoming increasingly popular. The involvement of veterans in work on a cooperative, personal, and family basis is very promising. Such work is already getting under way. Favorable conditions for increasing the employment of elderly people in work that is useful to society are created by the USSR Law "On Individual Labor Activity," which indicates more than 30 of the most widespread kinds of trades and services in which veterans can apply their knowledge, skills, and experience. And this list can be extended in the union and autonomous republics, krays, and oblasts with regard to the population's needs, traditions, and particular national features.

There are very broad opportunities for involving pensioners in socially useful labor. The maximum use must be made of them. For society, the labor of pensioners means both additional workhands and a means of preserving and developing the personality of the veteran himself and his active longevity. Having absorbed the collectivist modus operandi from childhood, in his declining years too a person must be able to realize his aspirations in socially useful labor. And the all-union organization and its corresponding commissions can play an active role here. Everyone's labor potential must fully serve the homeland.

The report pointed out that one of the chief directions in the new organization's activity is concern for better satisfying veterans' needs. Under conditions when the process of improving the health of Soviet society is taking place and when our motto has become "More Socialism," and therefore greater humanity, everywhere and in everything, concern for old age and a respectful attitude to veterans constitute one of the leading elements in the party's strong social policy. The party and government have recently adopted important decisions on improving veterans' material and domestic conditions, organizing their rest and medical services, and extending deserved privileges and advantages. The minimum size of pensions is growing, and increased supplements have been introduced for a long and continuous period of work. A new law on the provision of pensions for working people is now being prepared, providing for a further improvement in labor veterans' living conditions and also incentives for their more active participation in social production.

The speaker emphasized that the scale of assistance to veterans becomes more extensive and appreciable when local soviet organs, trade unions committees, and the public more actively participate in this work. The AUWLVO is to take enterprising and principled stands on questions connected with improving consumer and medical services for pensioners and arranging their leisure. Of course, what is needed here is not signals and complaints but joint concerted work with interested organs on eliminating existing shortcomings, creating appropriate services, and ensuring the exemplary organization of work in them. It was pointed out, in particular, that the veterans organization must take control of boarding homes, in whose work there are many shortcomings. Enterprises and labor collectives sometimes exercise patronage in a formal manner. The government and AUCCTU resolution "On Organizing Boarding Homes for Labor Veterans of Production Associations (Enterprises)" is being fulfilled badly. Many ministries have remained aloof from this important state matter. Existing boarding homes are being provided with amenities and new ones being constructed in a manifestly unsatisfactory manner. The situation here must be rectified.

Veterans include many people of advanced age and single people. [paragraph continues]

Various ailments beset a person in his declining years, and he may become emotionally troubled. What is needed in many instances to alleviate them is not some material expenditure but simple human involvement, sympathy, and heartfelt warmth. None of these people must feel overlooked.

The problem of a person adapting from vigorous labor activity to a pensioner's way of life is frequently very complex on a psychological plane. Comradely support is particularly necessary here. To get through to everyone -- this must be the veterans organization's motto. The suggestions contained in letters sent to the organizing committee on the need to set up a wider network of veterans' clubs or centers merit support.

Dwelling on the work of the AUWLVO organizing committee, the speaker pointed out that the organizing committee focused attention on drawing up a draft charter -- the organization's fundamental document. Work was carried out on it on a broad democratic basis, and tens of thousands of veterans in all oblasts and union republics participated in it. The thousands of letters sent to the organizing committee attest to the Soviet people's active support for the proposal approved by the 27th party congress to set up an all-union veterans organization.

The new public formation will operate under the CPSU's leadership, enjoy all the rights afforded to public organizations by the USSR Constitution, and conduct its work on the basis of the creative initiative and independence of the veteran public in close cooperation with state organs and public organizations. The draft charter envisages that it should be organized on the territorial production principle. It will be based on the veterans councils being set up in labor collectives and at places of residence. Existing veterans formations are to become a constituent part of the unified veterans organization and be guided by its charter.

Taking into account the active nature of foreign ties and the membership of many international veterans organizations, it is deemed expedient to preserve the Soviet War Veterans Committee within the new organization, with its own charter and steering organs. It will function under the leadership of the All-Union Council of War and Labor Veterans.

The creation of the all-union organization opens up new paths for development and close cooperation with veterans organizations of the fraternal socialist countries and the establishment of contacts with other foreign public formations of war and labor veterans with a view to strengthening friendship and cooperation.

The present time -- a complex and tense time -- demands very vigorous and responsible action in defense of peace. The voice of Soviet veterans calling for a struggle against the policy of aggression and war and for the establishment of an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding among the peoples must resound with weight and authority.

The political system of our society, G.P. Razumovskiy said in conclusion, is being supplemented by one more active link of the people's socialist self-management. The new organization is faced with many important and responsible tasks. [passage omitted]

AUCCTU Chairman S.A. Shalayev greeted the delegates to and participants in the constituent conference. [paragraph continues]

He emphasized that Soviet trade unions are among the founders of the new organization, whose aims, tasks, and structure meet the interests of every Soviet citizen and of our entire society. Conditions are being created so that no veteran is left outside the field of vision and attention.

The speaker particularly noted the fact that the all-union organization will cooperate closely with trade unions. More than 4 million mentors, including many labor veterans, already generously pass on their knowledge to young people, using their personal example to carry them along to patriotic achievements. Collectives have accumulated experience of arranging most favored status for elderly people wishing to continue their labor activity. Veterans are also taking an active part in drawing up the new law on pension provision for working people. An important aspect of further cooperation between trade unions and activists of the new organization is a package of questions connected with improving living conditions, medical, social, and consumer services, and the organizations of leisure. [passage omitted]

K.T. Mazurov was elected chairman of the All-Union Council of War and labor Veterans, and L.P. Lykova chairman of the All-Russian Council. Colonel General A.S. Zheltov was elected chairman of the Soviet War Veterans Committee.

MILITARY LEADERS SIGN RETIRED ADMIRAL'S OBITUARY

PM281654 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Dec 86 First Edition p 3

[Obituary of A.T. Chabanenko]

[Excerpts] Admiral Andrey Trofimovich Chabanenko, retired, has died in his 78th year after a grave illness. [passage omitted]

[Signed] S.L. Sokolov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, P.G. Lushev, A.D. Lizichev, V.N. Chernavin, I.N. Shkadov, N.I. Smirnov, P.N. Medvedev, K.V. Makarov, I.M. Kapitanets, S.P. Vargin, G.I. Salmanov, M.I. Druzhinin, F.A. Olifirov, R.A. Golosov.

EASTERN BORDER DISTRICT KOMSOMOL MEETS

PM311113 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Dec 86 p 3

[KAZTAG report: "To Strengthen Vigilance and Combat Readiness"]

[Text] The 25th Komsomol Conference of the troops of the USSR KGB's Red Banner Eastern Border District has been held. A report on the restructuring of the district Komsomol organizations' activities in the interests of the reliable protection of the USSR State Border in light of the 27th CPSU Congress demands, and on preparation for the 20th Komsomol Congress was delivered by Major A.Y. Bakumenko, assistant chief of the district's political section for Komsomol work.

The report and the speeches by Major General I.K. Petrovas, chief of the district's troops, and others mentioned the need to intensify the border troops' education in the combat traditions of the older generations and to further reinforce discipline, vigilance, and combat readiness.